

FRS GOES DX

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FRS GOES DX

Colophon

'FRS GOES DX' is a bi-monthly magazine which informs about radio in general and **Free Radio** in particular. It's published by FRS-Holland, an independent short wave free radio station.

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ADVERTISING

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MAILING ADDRESS

All correspondence should be sent to:
P.O.Box 2727, 6049 ZG HERTEN, the Netherlands. **Do NOT use the address on the cover!!**

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SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Pirate Chat, Free DX, Pirate Pages, Freewave, Pirate Connection and the Radio Tape.

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Deadline for contributions:

Friday June 10th 1994

This edition is circulated to readers in Europe, the U.S.A. and New Zealand.

Editorial

Welcome in this Spring 1994 issue. Still the new format hasn't been fully completed. It's just very difficult to work on a new issue and at the same time spending time on major changes in the style/layout. Fact is that an improved style has been developed. In addition a few other ideas are being worked out. The result will be shown in issue 129.

By the end of March, Radio Caroline celebrated its 30th birthday. You remember that magic word where it was all about: **FREE RADIO**. In the UK a kind of celebration party was organised. And a number of people wanted to sell free radio products. However: things were not that **free**. In the end some people, only willing to sell some merchandise- primarily cassettes- were refused unless they paid over almost all their profits to Radio Caroline. Besides: the stallage was absurd. I thought that in the free radio world the word **FREE** had (has) an important meaning... Not only as far as freedom on the airwaves is concerned. Don't understand me wrong: it was not Caroline making these ridiculous decisions but an organization calling itself Horizon Sales. I have deep respect for people who are selling free radio memorabilia handing over all money to the Caroline club but that's in no way a 'passport' to rule over others making it impossible for them to sell their merchandise. This has nothing to do with free radio!

Last time we carried a sad report about the raid on the MV Fury. Dutch offshore enthusiasts were excited when they heard the news that the MV Communicator- once the home of Laser 558 and Laser Hot Hits 576- has been purchased by the Dutch commercial radio station Holland FM. This time we can truly say that the Communicator will be a **legal basis** for Holland FM's terrestrial 1224 AM broadcasts. Who could ever think of the Communicator coming to the Netherlands? Isn't it true that such unexpected reports do make radio so exciting? And excitement is something which is closely related to radio! See you in two months, 73's,

Peter V.

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FRS NEWSCORNER

ISSUE 128

In front of you the very final FRSGDX edition in its current format.

We are sorry to say a few things we'd like to include in this very issue are still on the bookshelf. Hopefully Joop ter Zee will be around next time. What will also will get a place in future edition is a series of flashbacks to SW free radio stations from the 1970s/early 1980s. The questionnaire hasn't been completed yet: we are still hoping to receive some more forms. In this way we are able to publish a complete and reliable survey, the first one ever being published concerning the subject of the listener's attitude about SW free radio. Of course we will also publish the results of the questionnaire concerning this very magazine...

We've done the best we could to have this issue ready before the end of April. We succeeded but at the same time a few (little) things went wrong. For instance the SW addresses which we usually reserve some space for in the SW column, can be found on this page. Apologies. We are sincerely hoping you will enjoy this issue!! And remember...next time you'll be surprised.

CONTRIBUTORS

Although quite a number of regular contributors/reporters are helping us a lot with their logs, newitems & regular features, we are looking for more help. The more people are involved, the better the variety will be. We would like to see some people taking a look at the current SW scene. So: are you an insider in the UK or German or Scandinavian scene and you have time to contribute, get in touch with us. Personal views are also more than welcome. If you are having a computer using Word-perfect V5.1 or even 6.0 (Dos or Windows) you could send your contribution on a 3.5 inch floppy disk. But using a type writer will also do!

Any interesting stories about radio in local/regional/national papers or weekly papers are welcome too. We'd like to provide you with the widest possible variety of radio news.

FRS-HOLLAND ACTIVITIES

Last time the months of January and February were covered. It ended with the news about the FRSH February 20th programme cassettes were grabbed by some loonies. Well, we told the double auto reverse cassette deck of WGAS was left untouched. A bit strange, isn't it? No, not strange knowing this piece of equipment was also stolen. Luckily we still had all master tapes but one: FRS Magazine had to be rerecorded. All other programmes were still available... As announced in the previous FRSGDX edition, the repeat of the February 20th broadcast took place March 6th between 10.00- 14.00 CET. Frequency was 6280 kHz and the signal was really strong. But the modulation quality was very poor: some listeners thought the audio was overmodulated. It looked like they were right, it sounded like overmodulation. But that was not the case. The new cassette deck caused RF Feedback making the audio sound very poor. In the mean time the audio/modulation problems have

mission in May. If so, it will be a 4 hour at the usual time: between 08.00- 12.00 UTC. June and July (and perhaps August) won't include FRSH 3rd Sun trms. That doesn't mean we won't be active. We are hoping to have a few nighttime trms on 48 metres and perhaps on 76. We are considering to give it a try via the IRRS in Milano on 7125 kHz. If so, it won't happen until August/September. All in all 1994 will become an active FRSH year, only: conditions aren't very good and that's disappointing. Add the bad luck we've experienced with the modulation during two broadcasts and you may conclude we have had happier times. April could make things up for... FRS-Holland remains (and will always remain) a station putting all its efforts into the programming side. That's one side of free radio, not the only one. But a direct result is that you depend on a number of things being important to make a success of a transmission. Or in other words: to make it worth while. One factor is propagation, there are more. The final

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- 1 = P.O.Box 220342 / D-42373 WUPPERTAL / Germany
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- 5 = 12 Dorman Rd/ PRESTON/ Lancs PR2 6AS/ England
- 6 = c/o Stefan Printz/ Kamnarsvagan 13D:220/ 22646 LUND/ Sweden
- 7 = P.O.Box 383/ 5900 AJ VENLO/ the Netherlands.

Remark: the addresses (5) & (7) are listed for the first time. The Chelmsford address is no more!!

been solved and we can only pray that the April broadcast will be ok. We abandoned the intention to broadcast on the 3rd Sun of March, so there was no March 20th broadcast. The April broadcast was intended to take place April 17th. Conditions that day were so poor we cancelled that one and so it was moved to April 24th. FRSH was active on two frequencies: 6220 and 7419 kHz (provided all went ok).

FRSH FUTURE ACTIVITIES

With the sometimes appalling conditions, the perspective for the upcoming summer period don't look that bright. There's a chance there will be a 3rd Sunday trans-

result is the listener's feedback which is very important for any SW programming station. We express the hope April (and perhaps May) will be worth the efforts we made to make it happen.

FRS SALES PROD.

It's a long time ago that special tape and/or video offers were included in FRSGDX. In the mean time many, many new tapes have been added to our collection. It's been decided that we will be working on brandnew tape/video lists with a new & fresh lay-out including all tapes listed on the 'old' lists and in addition the more than 100 hours of new tapes. We will keep you in the picture.

SOUNDS FROM OFFSHORE

MV FURY/ ALLAN WEINER

Remember John England? Some 10 years ago- in 1984- England spread the news about the return of Radio London on the European airwaves. This time he's denouncing Al Weiner's activities... John sent a fax to Hans Knot about Al Weiner. England posits Weiner not only is active for the radio vessel MV Fury but also owns a...potato-flour mill in Monticello, a hamlet in the state of Maine. Weiner is not a supporter of organized society, in particular when it comes to radio. At the age of 16 Weiner collaborated with Joseph Paul Ferraro and that was the start of Al's career within the world of illegal radio. Quite often they got into trouble with the authorities but neither Weiner, nor Ferraro ever got real heavy punishments. It always blew over. And so it happened Weiner fitted out a radio ship in 1987. He called it MV Sarah and his next move was commencing trms off the Long Island (New York) coast on AM, FM and SW. Name of the station: Radio New York Int. The station was named R.N.I.enabling the presenting team to use the Radio Northsea Int. jingle package. A few dates after trms were commenced from the Sarah, FCC and police undertook action and that was the end of RNI. A year later, in the 1988 summer, Weiner carried out a second attempt but also this new attempt failed. Weiner got a warning: in case he would break the law one more time, they would be tough on him. Al Weiner decided to retire and turn his back upon the world of offshore radio. The Sarah was sold to MPLX, managed by a woman named Genie Baskir. The idea was to use the ship as a floating radio vessel. There were enough candidates but one idea was very interesting: Radio Tiannamen, a project that was the predecessor of the Goddess of Democracy one. It was meant to support the Chinese students who were in revolt by means of propaganda broadcasts. Although it was intended to start radio operations within a limited period, (the first) problems with regard to the purchase of the ship arose shortly after the

first contacts between Weiner and Baskir. Weiner asked Baskir for money to buy fuel, to pay a guard on the ship (which was moored in Boston) and to buy a SW transmitter. Weiner would counsel the project on behalf of MPLX. Baskir provided him with the money thinking she had now automatically become the owner of the Sarah. Weiner would transfer all rights to her. England continues his story: it was at the end of 1990 that Weiner made a second proposal to miss Baskir to sell the Sarah, using this time official documents. A lawyer was enlisted to draw up an official contract. This time the amount was much higher than what was mentioned earlier. Apart from the money already paid by MPLX, Weiner claimed an extra US\$ 10,000 at the moment the change of ownership would take place. Then MPLX would obtain the ownership of the Sarah. Baskir was in for a deal and invited Weiner to come to the MPLX headquarters in Dallas. Weiner stayed a few days in Dallas but still no contract was concluded. Not much later Weiner asked Baskir to come to New York to sign. Baskir paid Weiner but the latter failed however to hand over the ship's papers. After returning to Dallas Baskir continuously contacted Weiner asking for the ship's papers. Instead of agreeing, Weiner decided to ask for more money. That was the main reason the plans to moor the Sarah off the Chinese coast had to be cancelled. MPLX couldn't prove to be the legitimate owner of the ship. In the mean time the company paid the back harbour-dues in Boston!! Baskir didn't know what was happening on the ship simply because she was living much too far away from it. In case she had been listening regularly to the trms of Radio Netherlands World Service (Media Network), she would have been well up in the matter... But reality was her interest didn't go out to the offshore world and she didn't know what was going on. Until the moment she heard that Weiner had put an advert in a periodical for boat owners putting up the Sarah for sale. Weiner pretended he was the owner of the ship. He didn't care a bit that MPLX had paid a lot of money including back harbour-dues. The result of the advert was the Sarah was sold to MGM, a movie company. Before MGM had the Sarah at their disposal, all equipment was taken from the ship and all was installed on another

radio ship ...the MV Fury, also anchored in Boston harbour. In the contract with MPLX it was clearly to be read that Baskir had signed buying the Sarah including all radio equipment. The equipment was sold to Scott Becker- living in Iowa- who appeared to be a figure-head for Brother R.G.Stair. A company named Voyager Broadcast Services was founded and airtime was sold for the new project. So all in all the Sarah was illegally sold to MGM and the radio equipment was illegally sold to Brother Stair (via Becker). MPLX had lost all the money which was invested. December 1993 Genie Baskir discovered Al Weiner was unable to transfer the ship's papers to her because he had never been the legal owner. Representatives of Baskir contacted the Boston coastguard informing them about the fraudulent practises of Mr. Weiner. It was then that Baskir discovered the strange practises illegally being carried out with both ships. Baskir contacted MGM in Los Angeles, the US Justice Department, the FBI, the US Treasury Department, the US Customs, US Coast Guard, FCC, the ambassador of Belize and the governments of Panama and Nevis. Her purpose was to prevent the Fury with the stolen equipment could leave the harbour of Charleston. After the raid on the Fury January 19th (see FRSQDX 127) Baskir laughed in her sleeve. Early February she hired legal advisers aiming to investigate which action can be undertaken against Al Weiner. Looking at the present situation the following complaints will be lodged against him: fraud, unorganised representation on behalf of Baskir's company (he would arrange everything in preparation for the departure of the Sarah to China where the ship would be serving as a floating radio station- Radio Tiannamen). At the moment the latter project had to be cancelled, Baskir considered the idea of converting the Sarah into a museum/restaurant. The ship would be moored near Boston. The equipment would be removed and the equipment being used by a new educational radio station. It concerned a station getting its domain in the 'Yesterworld' park, which is under preparation in Texas. It will be interesting to see what the judge will decide.

Mark you: this story came from John England!

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More news, this time in connection with the raid in January:

Allan Weiner reports he has made a statement in the Federal Court in which he denies any test has been carried out from the MV Fury. He adds that Overcomer Ministries will claim all confiscated equipment. Legal proceedings will be taken against the FCC because of setting illegally foot on an officially registered radio vessel and radio station. Damages are claimed from the US authorities because of damages caused by FCC officials. Overcomer Ministries seriously considers the idea of buying a new ship replacing the MV Fury. Studios and transmitting rooms will be professionally equipped according to one of Brother Stair's disciples. Is he boasting? We have to wait and see.

FRSGDX will keep you up-to-date with this never-ending story!!

RADIO CAROLINE **30th Birthday**

Sunday March 27th Breeze AM paid attention to Caroline's 30th anniversary. The programme was aired under the title "All at sea, 30 years of Radio Caroline". Broadcasts were linked to the Breeze AM studios. Between 10 and 6 PM local time the special programme was aired under the leadership of good old Peter Philips and Ray Clarke, formerly both with Radio Caroline. All came live from the Ross Revenge and was aired over the 1431 and 1359 kHz AM Breeze outlets. Apart from the many extracts, jingles, commercials and promos being played in the programme, several radio personalities who worked on Caroline between 1964 and 1991 were present: Johnny Walker, Tony Blackburn, Dave Lee Travis, Roger Day, Andy Archer and Tommy Vance. Even Caroline founder Ronan O'Rahilly showed up on the Ross Revenge to explain why he started Caroline in 1964 and why there's still a need for a station such as Caroline: pioneering with new sorts of music.

Because the event was heavily promoted, a great number of persons decided to bring a visit to the Ross Revenge moored in the Blackwater. The boat trips to the ship were very successful. Many persons were disappointed not being able to obtain a ticket! Hundreds of cars were spotted near the location of the

Caroline ship, taking a look at the Ross. Sky News carried an 8 minute newsitem about Caroline's 30th anniversary. Interviews with Ronan O'Rahilly, Keith Skues and Tommy Vance (who was live in the Sky studio) were part of the item.

Also Super Gold, the satellite oldies service, paid attention to Caroline's anniversary and in Germany it was Radio Schleswig Holstein putting out a 60 minute tribute on the rich history of Caroline. BBC Kent broadcasted a special Caroline tribute over the Easter weekend.

CAROLINE ON SW

Apart from the last two weekends in February, Caroline's 6295 service has been heard continuously.

CAROLINE ON SATELLITE

In the previous issue we reported about the Intelsat 512 being replaced by the new Intelsat 702 which is a higher powered satellite. Reception of Caroline should be improving because of this satellite swap. RNI Norway, the station which had provided Caroline with their Euro-wide satellite outlet since 1991, was forced to cease broadcasting due to lack of finances (this also happened already in 1993) in March thus preventing Caroline from further Intelsat satellite broadcasts. Henk de Jong, RNI's key-figure, had offered Caroline free use of the Radio North Sea audio subcarrier on the Intelsat satellite since 1991. But there's hope: Caroline fans have to look out for the possible return of Caroline to the Astra satellite sharing a transponder with a new UK based satellite station... More on that next time around! By the way: we heard that Henk de Jong has got into serious private problems. As far as the trms via the RNI subcarrier is concerned, the Caroline future doesn't look very bright.

RUMOURS

Rumours about a new ship are still buzzing about. WGAS' Andy Walker is regularly giving updates in his Free Radio Show. So far no real new developments have taken place and we cannot add that much to the information we already gave in issue 127. Last month we spoke about a possible location in the Mediterranean where a new ship had been fitted out. Other stories mention one of the Baltic states

where Caroline would have obtained a licence in an attempt to beat the British Broadcasting Act. A new ex-military ship would have been fitted out in the Baltic area in a former Russian state. It was expected that Ronan O'Rahilly would reveal facts about a new ship during Caroline's 30th anniversary party which was organised by EAP the last weekend of March. This however didn't happen. Latest rumours suggest the new ship arriving sometime in May. A few well-known former Caroline people would be involved in this new project. WE believe it when we hear it with our very own ears.....

RESTRICTED SERVICE LICENCE

The Radio Authority did issue Caroline a RSL for a period of 28 days. The station's aim to celebrate the birthday with a RSL broadcast were dropped because only one watt on AM was offered!! The latest info on the subject of restricted service licenses makes mention of one being obtained this summer when the South of England Boat Show will be organised.

ISRAELI PIRATES: **NOT GIVING UP** **THEIR SHIPS**

Despite the Israeli government's bid to establish a network of private, local radio stations, the country's pirate radio industry continues to flourish. The Ministry of Communications vowed that a new tender to auction off 10 licences to operate radio stations would come in February. The tender originally was scheduled for October, however, a controversy arose over which ministry would be responsible for the new stations. The Prime Minister's communications aide Shimon Sheetret insisted that the Second Channel Authority, the new government-run agency that oversees Israel's new commercial television station, should administer and regulate the new radio industry.

Although February was the next target date, officials close to the negotiations said that little movement has been made in the talks.

Meanwhile, pirate radio operators, have been beefing up their signals and sprucing

up their ships, despite claims by the Communications Ministry that once government-sanctioned private radio is established, they will be shut down.

Radio Hof (=Coastal Radio), which broadcasts outside of Israel's territorial waters at Bat Yam south, 3 miles off Tel Aviv, started broadcasting when the Voice of Peace ceased to exist in late September. Radio Hof's trms are to heard on FM (102 MHz) and AM from the motor vessel David having a length of only 28 metres! The ship was built in 1955 and was recently converted into a radio ship. Cabins were altered and new shower-bath were installed. It seems the station sounds a bit amateurish (according to Israeli sources). Although several VoP jocks were offered jobs on Radio Hof, none of them accepted the offer (although much better salaries were offered). Baruch Ben-David, Radio Hof station-manager, said that his company will not make the same mistake the "Peace Ship" made by neglecting the commercial side of running a radio station. He said his ship is in good working order and that his advertising staff is American-trained and understands how to sell advertising space on radio.

Israel's other pirate ships, such as Radio One off the coast of Haifa, report a boom in both listeners and revenue and are now successfully competing with local weekend newspapers, which for years had a monopoly on the advertising market. Radio One temporarily ceased broadcasting following threats made by the authorities. Now they're back. And the station claims a growing number of listeners since the Voice of Peace closed down trms. Commented Israeli media analyst Barry Chamish of the Television Business International Journal, "It will be difficult for the government to close down entities that are serving the basic needs of so many businesses. As long as the new generation of pirates run their stations like a business and not a sort of 'floating party of groupies', I see a bright future for them.

NEW FUTURE FOR COMMUNICATOR?

Late February a few Dutch papers carried articles about the plans of commercial satellite broadcaster Holland FM to purchase a radio vessel being used

by the station to radiate the AM signal. As you could read in FRS6DX 127, Holland FM was one of the lucky ones obtaining a licence allowing the station to start terrestrial trms on AM. No less than 9 small transmitters on 8 different frequencies was the 'prize' won by Holland FM. Power of all txs: less than 2.5 kW except one having an output of 22 kW. Holland FM however has the right to choose another locations than the ones originally intended. The 22 kW AM tx should be located in Assen (north eastern part of the Netherlands) but the management has other plans. Using a ship on the IJsselmeer was the ideal solution. Not only in terms of a better signal but also because of publicity. That the news about their plans already transpired in February was a thorn in their flesh. But: what is done cannot be undone... Gerro Vonk, one of the key-figures did an attempt to persuade reporters of papers to write an article denying the fact Holland FM was looking for a ship. He failed. In the previous edition we mentioned the Ross Revenge but in the mean time it's become clear Holland FM has another radio vessel in mind... According to Caroline's Johnny Reece the deal to hire the Ross was canceled because the steering-gear on the Ross is still broken. One of the Dutch papers paying attention to Holland FM's plans was the PZC, a regional paper for the Dutch province of Zeeland (with thanks to Jan for the article!):

"Business man Willem van Kooten known as deejay Joost den Draaijer) is planning to buy the former radio vessel Communicator- once the home of Laser- in Portugal. With this ship he intends to commence AM transmission from the IJsselmeer, radiating the programmes of Holland FM, up till now only receivable via cable networks and privately owned satellite systems. January 21st Holland FM got permission from the Dutch minister D'Ancona to start terrestrial trms making use of 8 small and one relatively strong tx. But because there are neither antennas, nor transmitters (the latter have to be ordered yet!) it could take at least another 6 months before Holland FM could commence AM broadcasts. And that's a thorn in the flesh of Willem van Kooten, shareholder and one of the key-figures behind the station. All the more because rival Radio 10 Gold- also

obtaining an AM licence- already started on 675 kHz AM February 1st. And their tx was quite ready to use. The only they needed to do as a link between the studio and the tx in Iopik. It looks like Holland FM could fall behind in the ever-continuing battle to find favour with the listening audience. Willem van Kooten: "You know how things develop in this country. You need building-licences, small pieces of ground for installing the antennas and you have to deal with environmental and nuisance act perils. That takes ages. I'm preferring to start right now rather than waiting months and months." The choice of a radio ship isn't that illogical for Willem van Kooten. He started his career on Radio Veronica, in those days (early 60s) transmitting on the Borkum Riff off the Scheveningen coast. Also other Holland FM jocks have 'pirate blood' in their blood vessels. Chiel Montagne and Eddy Becker were once popular Veronica deejays. And Tony Berk was up till August 31st 1974 programme-director of RNI's Dutch Service. And Nico Volker was the man behind Radio Monique, Radio 558 and Radio 819. Despite these links with the offshore past, there are no nostalgic thoughts underlying the choice of a ship "although I have to admit it's funny to know you can legally broadcast from a ship within territorial waters" using Van Kooten's words. The choice of a radio ship is primarily a practical one. The Communicator houses two 25 kW AM txs (CSI), there are studios, generators and an (incomplete) antenna system. Most important is that all equipment can be brought back in good condition within a relatively short period. The object in view, the Communicator, is since 1987 in Lisbon, Portugal. Spring 1987 the Laser Hot Hits project was defunct and the Communicator was anchored off the French coast (Dunkirk) for a while. Then the ship was moved to Portugal. In the end the American Underground Church bought the Communicator willing to use the ship for evangelical broadcasts. This never happened because of internal conflicts and quarrels. The ship has been redecorated and the current condition can be described as 'very good'. Holland FM plans to moor the ship in the 'Trintelhaven', half-way the dyke Lelystad-

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Enkhuizen."

We heard the story that on behalf of Holland FM a negotiator went to Lisbon who had to go home empty-handed because no representative of the ship turned up. The same old story?? By the way: his intention was to talk about the purchase money.

Another interesting story is that- according to usually reliable sources- Paul Rusling was involved in the search for a suitable ship. It wouldn't be too surprising if Mr. Rusling came up with the idea about the Communicator. For he was one of the key-figures behind the Laser 558 project in its early days (1984). Joost den Draaier alias Willem van Kooten however denies Holland FM has hired Rusling.



The national Dutch newspaper 'Het Algemeen Dagblad' carried another interesting story about Holland FM's plans with the Communicator. This article was published mid March. The paper reports about a number of deejays who used to work for offshore stations going back to the high seas (which is ofcourse untrue: the IJsselmeer is NOT a sea). A brief summary:

"As from early April onwards the Holland FM programming will be radiated from the MV Communicator. The ship has been repaired for almost a million Dutch guilders. With the powerful tx aboard the ship the whole of the Netherlands can be covered. In the mean time the Communicator is on its way from Lisbon to the Netherlands. Just like in the old days a slogan will be used in combination with the transmitting frequency helping the listener to bear it in mind. The slogan will be '1224- meer plezier (=more pleasure). Holland FM intends to continue its operations in the Rotterdam based studios. In the weekends however programmes would be presented live from the radio vessel. Listeners would the be enabled to bring a

visit to the ship. Holland FM continues its operations via the Astra satellite. So far the article in the Algemeen Dagblad. By the end of March a few conclusions could be made. No doubt Holland FM is after the Communicator. But: despite several reports the ship hasn't been bought. From reliable sources we learnt that a fax was sent to Lisbon informing about the sale. The answer was crisp clear: the ship is still for sale to any interested party. Dutch authorities have refused Holland FM's request to moor the ship in the Trintelhaven. The draught of the harbour is inadequate and: the development plan doesn't allow ships like the Communicator. It's aimed at recreation. However, the IJsselmeer puts up more than one suitable location. So there's still a good chance the ship (in case it will be bought!) will be moored elsewhere. A possible location could be a mooring off Pampus, a little island in the south western part of the IJsselmeer not too far away (east) from Amsterdam.

Saturday April 9th the annual Dutch offshore radio day was organised and Holland FM was present with a stand. So was Holland FM's Nico Volker who was one of the key-figures behind the Dutch offshore radio stations Radio Monique, Radio 558 and Radio 819. FRS DX asked him what is true and what is not. He revealed the following info: early April the Communicator was officially purchased by Holland FM. In the mean time the ship has been inspected and the result is the ship is seaworthy. Thursday April 7th a team of maintenance engineers went to Lisbon where they will be accompanied by a number of Portuguese workmen. Fact is the ship will be serviced in dry-dock. The Holland FM owners don't want to spoil any time, the sooner the Communicator arrives at its new location, the better it will be. No doubt the competitive struggle with the other Dutch commercial radio stations from which most are already active via a terrestrial frequency underlies this hurry. In this respect it is to be expected that things in Lisbon will be handled very quick and professional in contrast with how things have been in the past couple of years when work was carried out on the Communicator with very irregular intervals. Nico Volker also cleared the matter about studios and

txs up: the studios aboard the ship are empty because the previous had to pay back harbour dues. As this wasn't paid in time, Portuguese authorities removed the studio equipment. New studios won't be built until the Communicator is on the IJsselmeer. A brandnew 23 kW state-of-the-art Harris AM transmitter will be installed. The Dutch Nozema are the body who are in charge to approve the transmitting equipment. No doubt this will only be a formality as Harris is the world leading company when it comes to building AM txs according to the latest technologies. In the second half of May the ship will sail to western European waters. It's not for sure whether she will steam under her own power. Holland FM sent off a press report in which is said that Chiel Montagne will be on the Communicator when the ship will sail to its new mooring. Chiel intends to bring regular reports about the journey. On the ship a 60 metre tall antenna tower will be erected. The ship will be painted in red, white & blue. Before sailing to the Netherlands the Communicator will call at the Ross Revenge in Essex. Then the North Sea will be crossed and via IJmuiden and the North Sea Channel, the ship will reach its destination (Pampus??). The moment the Communicator will be sailing from the Northsea into the North Sea Channel, the Dutch media are invited to climb aboard making the journey with the ship to the IJsselmeer. FRS Goes DX hopes to have a representative on the ship too.

When issue 129 will be out (mid June), it must be clear where the Communicator will drop its anchor and when 1224 AM trms from the ship will commence.

Very unexpectedly Holland FM started AM trms from land on 1224 kHz Thursday March 31st. These trms must be seen as a warning-up for the upcoming Communicator trms. The tx location seems to be Lopik (near Utrecht) and the current output is a mere 5 kW. A Nozema spokesman (the Nozema manages the Dutch transmitters) revealed a former Irish 10 kW tx was in use not operating on full power. During daytime Holland FM has a fair/good signal in most parts of the Netherlands. During evening and night things are different and 1224 is suffering co-channel interference from a few strong

stations. Virgin broadcasts on 1215 and that means that in certain Dutch areas 1224 is spluttering making reception of Virgin impossible. We heard from one of our British contributors that Holland FM's 1224 signal made it all the way to Liverpool, England. In most programmes deejays refer at the upcoming introduction of the MV Communicator.

RADIO BROD

The Radio Brod ship is still anchored in the port of Parma. At the end of February Radio Brod left the airwaves due to lack of financing. The ship which is leased hasn't been yet returned to its owner. Attempts are being made to find financial backing enabling Radio Brod to return on 720 kHz.

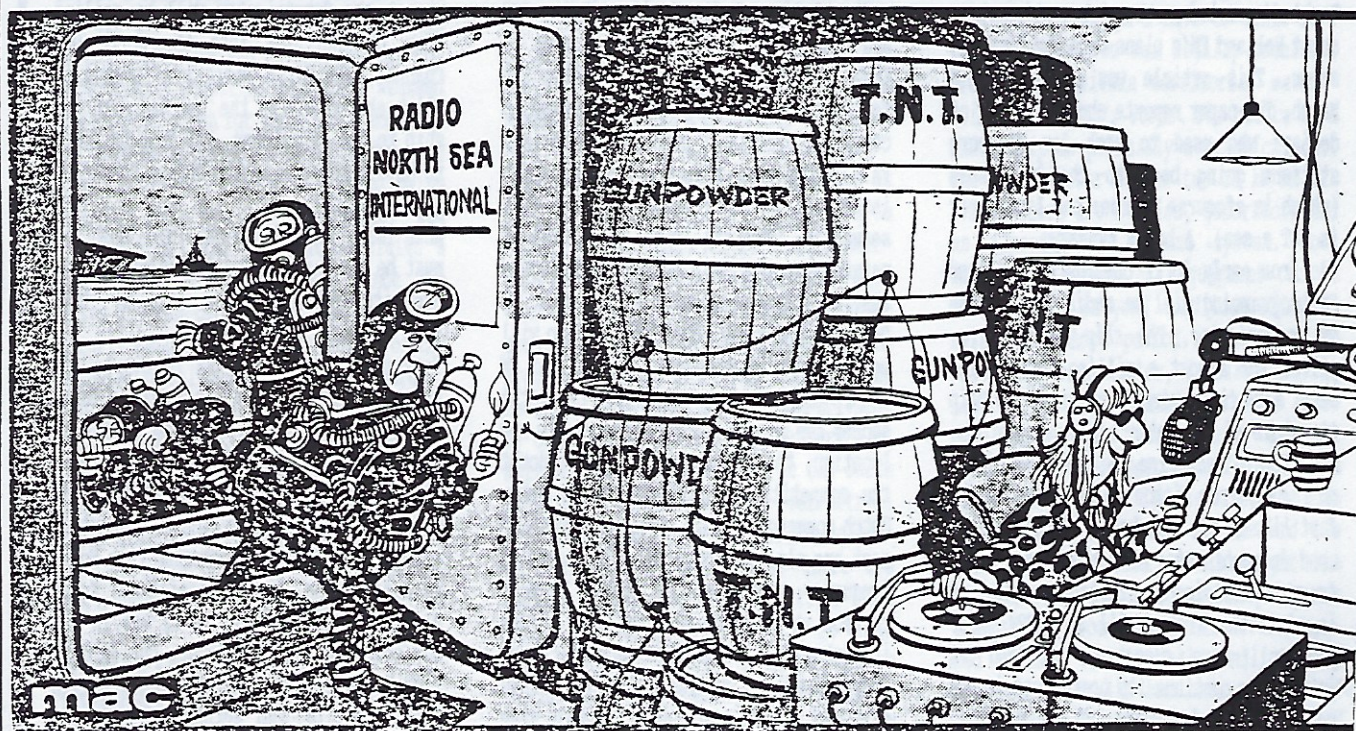
BULL VERWEY CD

In 1959 Bull Verwey got-with a group of business men- involved in a project. Purpose: trying to start a new radio station broadcasting from a ship off the Dutch coast. Their 'shining example': the Scandinavian offshore projects. Also Bull's brothers Dirk and Jaap got involved. Socks and radio: a weird combination!! But not for the Verwey brothers. One

of the Verweys, Dirk, often travelled to Germany and there he discovered that Philips radio and tv equipment was cheaper than in Holland. As a result he bought a lot so now and then. Those radios and tv's were sold in a little Amsterdam-based shop. October 1959 the idea arose to stimulate the sale of radio equipment by means of a radio vessel broadcasting popular music and commercials. The 'Vrije Radio Omroep Nederland' was born. Bull: "we thought it would be very simple. Buy a ship, install a transmitter and the money will keep rolling in." The VRON bought a relatively cheap clipper in Emden (Northern part of West-Germany). But the rising bills from the ship-yard put them to expenses and that meant almost the end of the plans. Also after the ship put to sea, the initiators had to deal with setbacks. Panama withdrew the flag (costing the organisation f 60,000) and almost no-one had the courage to supply the ship. After two years the Dutch trade and industry started advertising on the station and from that moment onwards the commercial adventure really began. In the mean time several business men had already left the project: they were pessimistic and thought the project would become a complete

failure. The Verwey bros. invested a lot of money but became main shareholders. Bull Verwey felt like a fish in water between all those enthusiastic programmers. "Every day something happened. We have had a lot of fun. The most fantastic years of my life."

This unique double CD features Bull Verwey speaking frankly for the first time about what happened behind the scenes. About the flags the Veronica ships carried, about the plan to moor a second vessel off the English coast, the advanced plans to beam radio broadcasts to Morocco from the southern part of France and not to forget the sudden competition from Radio Northsea Int. resulting in a bomb attack. Bull Verwey disappeared under lock and key for 12 months! And also the sympathy he still had for RNI man Edwin Bollier despite the sad incident and the friendship with another 'pirate': Ronan O'Rahilly. During two marathon interviews and a 'sentimental-journey' to the former Veronica ship Norderney (nowadays being moored in Groningen) and a visit to the dockyard in Emden where the first Veronica ship Borkum Riff was converted into a radio vessel, former Veronica boss Bull Verwey looked



'Here's a request from Mr Big of Holland, who says: "Say your prayers, mine friend, you won't be so lucky a second time..."'

<FRS GOES DX> the magazine for the free radio enthusiast

back at 14 tempestuous Veronica years. Anecdotes, fits of laughter and a plain look on the past. He's not a man who's looking back sans rancune, although he lost a fortune in 1983 forcing him to sell his fantastic house including the original ship bell of the Borkum Riff. Bull is now 84 (!) but glows with health. The double CD lasts 150 minutes and can be ordered via SMC for only f 30,-!!! For more info write to SMC, P.O.Box 53121, 1007 RC Amsterdam in the Netherlands.

MISCELLANEOUS

* Remember Bob Noakes?? Once he was engineer on R.N.I. and Radio Caroline. He wrote an intriguing story about his life on the high seas ('Last of the Pirates'). Bob still makes a living as a maintenance man and works in several Amsterdam hotels. A nice comment he made to Hans Knot: "Hans, you know I'm not a real radio freak but I am a damned good engineer. Now that Van Kooten is planning to put the Communicator on the IJsselmeer, I would love to work for him. Keep in mind that the 'race' of offshore engineer is dying out!" Noakes hopes to visit the annual offshore meeting in Utrecht.

* Paul Graham who can be heard during the weekends on Melody Radio, is now during weekdays (since the end of March) active on Invicta in Whitstable. Graham used to work on the Ross Revenge.

* Johnny Walker, former Caroline and Swinging Radio England personality, was heard on BBC 1FM during one week presenting the drive time (4-7 pm) programme. Johnny replaced Nicky Campbell who was absent between March 28th and April 3rd.

* Talking of former offshore presenters: Kenny Everett, presenter on Capital Gold, was the receiver of the Radio Academy Award for an outstanding contribution to music radio. His career started with offshore radio on Big L in the mid 60s. He joined Dave Cash with BBC Light programme with the 'Kenny and Cash Show'. In the 1970s he joined Capital. Kenny will soon take over the morning slot 09.00-12.00 on Capital Gold.

* An American radio legend died following a heart attack during his radio show. It happened on WHLI, Garden City, Long Island. Sixty year old Jack Spector had an enormous popularity in the 60s

& 70s when he was on WMCA as one of the 'Good Guys'. In the WMCA studios Jack also produced his programmes for Radio Caroline.

* Sunday April 3rd Swedish TV aired a 90 minute documentary covering the history of Radio Nord. Radio Nord broadcasted from the MV Bon Jour later renamed in Mi Amigo. This legendary ship housed stations like Atlanta, Caroline, Mi Amigo, Radio Seagull and Radio Atlantis.

Cont. SW News page :

variable signal strengths. Perhaps a Dutchie!? Sun March 20th music was noted on 7423 (poor/fair signal) *** RADIO ORION is still alive: so now and then the station pops up in the 6275-6300 range. Sat February 19th 6290 was in use and Fri April 1st Orion was noted on 6300 with Mike Wilson reporting *** FREE RADIONORWAY produced a nice signal on 6255 February 20th. The station uses approx. 100W and in the mean time we know the address: (1). In case the station is really coming from Norway, it's the only active operation from that country these days. Names don't necessarily contain correct info about the country of origin. Just think of the BIRS! *** EAST COAST RADIO tested on 6270 late in the afternoon of Febr. 20th. Address is unknown *** RADIO DUBLIN is regularly monitored on 6910 with a satisfactory signal but with a poor modulation quality. Add is Box 2077, Dublin 8 in Ireland *** Could it have been RADIO PANDORA broadcasting on 7457 kHz Fri April 1st with a rather muffled audio quality? *** RADIO BENELUX from Germany is still active on 7479. Sun March 27th a fair signal was heard with the usual mix of music (rock, oldies etc.). Most shows are live and it seems the station is currently a one-man operation. Add is (7)! *** Since Radio Fax disappeared, the religious service using the name REFLECTIONS EUROPE continues on a weekly basis on 3910, 6205 and 12255 kHz. With the changing conditions, the 6205 could improve for continental listeners during evening. Since the introduction of summertime, Reflection programming starts at 15.00 instead of 16.00 UTC *** One of Finland's most popular SW operations is RADIO METEOR. So now and then their signals are received in western Europe. February 20th Meteor was fading in and out on 9984 and March 19th qso's were monitored on 3905 and 3933. Address was

Box 82, 40101 Jyväskylä in Finland but due to the raid you should now write to SWP at (1) *** FRS LONDON used 6285 February 27th. In one or another way we think to know the OP.... No address available! *** WNKR tested on 6203 Sun March 6th providing fair signals on the continent. Dave Martin has been testing with a tx that requires no x-tals. Interesting! Add is (1) *** HIT RADIO EXACT is the name of an unknown (FM??) station heard on 6555 March 6th *** RADIO FUSION from Sweden produced a good signal on 7410 March 6th. After a long absence, the station nowadays is so now and then on air. Media Team, Box 33, 1751 Halden in Norway, that's the address *** RADIO PAMELA returned after a break on 6305 March 13th. Signal on the continent was rather poor. Add was the Chelmsford one but that address is no more. We await further info! *** OPTIMOD has been heard a number of times via Angel on 6400. Relays via the BIRS are not possible due to the raid on Merlin in January. April 2nd Optimod was noted on 6220 via WGAS?? *** RADIO SAFARI (1) was heard twice: March 20th via 6285 and April 3rd on 6270 *** Pirate Connection that well-known Dutch broadcaster RADIO TORENVALK tested on Easter Sun late in the afternoon at 14.21 UTC on 6210 kHz and Easter Mon at 11.00 UTC on 6206. Regular trms will follow. Torenvalk still uses the old address which is Box 94, 7038 ZH Zeddum in the Netherlands.

Cont. Made in Holland page :

..of the RCD is being exhibited. Attention is paid to offshore stations as well. But it's also interesting to take a look at the equipment which was and is used to track down illegal stations. Moreover: you can track down an 'illegal station' in the museum! Another interesting subject is the exhibition of confiscated radio transmitting equipment. We aren't sure but it's possible that two 10W SW txs build in in a wooden bunk are also in the museum... Yes friends, it concerns two lovely but very solid txs which were confiscated on that memorable Sun January 16th 1983. Next time we'll let you know if the confiscated FRS equipment really is being exhibited in De Hague! The PIT Museum is opened from Mon-Fri 10.00-17.00 and in the weekend from 12.00-17.00 hours. Add= Zeestraat 80 in De Hague.

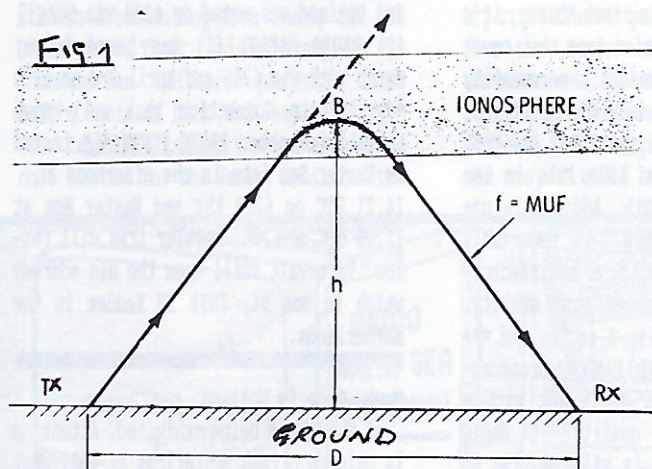
TECHNICAL FEATURE

By Chris Watson

Chris Watson's Technical Feature in issue 127 contained part 1: The Ionosphere and part 2: The Ionosphere Layer by layer. He continues with part 3 & 4. Any SW OP and keen DXer who reads this interesting explanation, will better understand some of the strange circumstances he has experienced over the years... Conditions play an important role in the next feature.

PART 3a: **CRITICAL FREQUENCY**

The critical frequency of the layers in the ionosphere is the highest frequency which will be reflected back when the radiowaves hit the ionosphere vertically (figure 1). Frequencies higher than this critical point during the day and night pass through the ionosphere into space. In order for a radio signal to be reflected from transmitter to receiver (fig 1), the density at point B (in the ionosphere) must be high enough to support reflection.

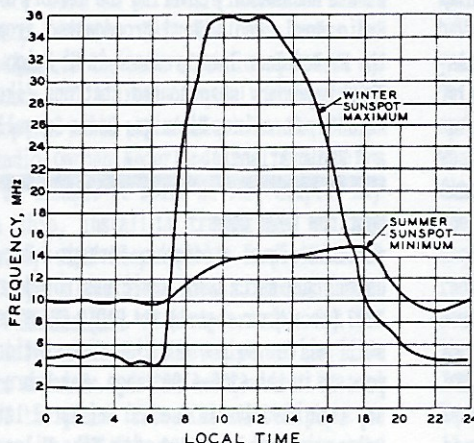


If you change the frequency of your transmitter to a much higher one (say 11 MHz to 21 MHz) at some point the density of the ionosphere will not be great enough to bend this higher signal back to earth and it will continue out into space and lost (eg nobody will hear you, so just drop back a band or two, say 21 MHz back to 11 or 9 MHz or even on a very bad day you might have to drop from 6 MHz to 3.9 MHz, hi hi). The critical frequency of the most highly ionized layer may be as low as 2 MHz at night and high as 10 or 15 in the middle of the day.

PART 3b: **MUF**

So as you see, there is an upper limit to the range of frequencies that can be

FIG 2 MUF



reflected back to earth. This upper limiting is called the maximum usable frequency: MUF. The MUF is highest at noon and is very high during the sunspot maximum (which is not now!!) raising the MUF to 28 MHz and over! But during sunspot minimums (where we are close to now in '94) very much lower MUFs are found, below 9 MHz sometimes. During the last sunspot minimum in 1986/1987, the MUF on a few days dropped to

as low as 5 MHz during daytime!! Figure 2 shows MUF against frequency and figure 3 shows the critical frequency and the skip paths.

PART 3c: **LUF**

There is a lower limit which allows propagation for limited distances on the HF bands. This is called the LUF and can be used to good results depending on transmitter power and gain of the antenna system. According to the people that really know about this subject eg the international broadcasters, one should operate on a frequency 15% below the MUF to get the best results as going down to a

lower frequency nearer the LUF might give better signals for a shorter time as noise levels will soon degrade as the day goes on. It really is a matter of being fortunate enough to catch the right conditions at the time and experienced OPs will soon be on when conditions are 'good' or as some day 'the band has opened up'.

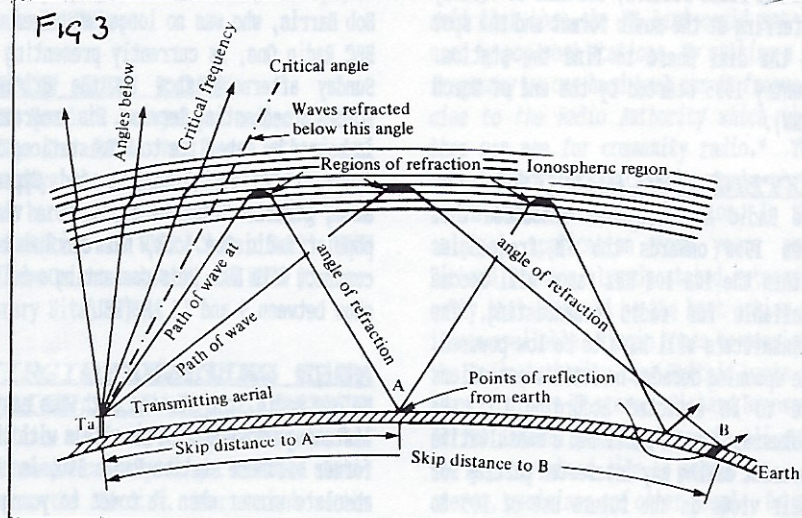
PART 3b: **IONOSPHERIC ANOMALIES**

Disturbances of the ionosphere fall into two types: the sudden ionosphere disturbance-SID- and the ionospheric storm. The SID commences suddenly and lasts from a few minutes to an hour or so. The ionospheric storm develops over a period of days and can continue for a week or more. In both cases the ionosphere is upset with critical frequencies dropping and ionospheric absorption increasing as the disturbance is increasing. The SID has a spectacular effect on HF propagation with fadeouts over a large portion of the HF spectrum (2 to 30 MHz), with even the background noise disappearing and the only signals being heard are the ground wave of the more closer and powerful stations. But the bands do recover slowly over several hours. It is thought that the SID is the result of a solar flare, a sudden short lived bright eruption on the face of the sun and these are usually during the period of high solar activity (high sunspot times). The second kind of ionospheric disturbance is the ionospheric storm. While not as serious as the SID, the storm still provides problems to HF communications and over a much greater time scale. Again during a storm HF signals drop to a very low level or even disappear entirely for periods of several days (or longer as has been the case over much of this sunspot period until around 12 months ago). It seems that the F-layer stays at a much greater height and so HF signals appear much weaker than they really are! These storms occur day and night and as the storm fluctuates, signals are subject to considerable fading often the type known as flutter fading. Figure 4 shows a disturbance in the ionosphere

causing very short skip and the reverse is true giving very long skip causing problems or advantages to HF OPS.

conditions this latest cycle high has been much of a disappointment compared to the earlier cycle of 10 to 13 years ago, that

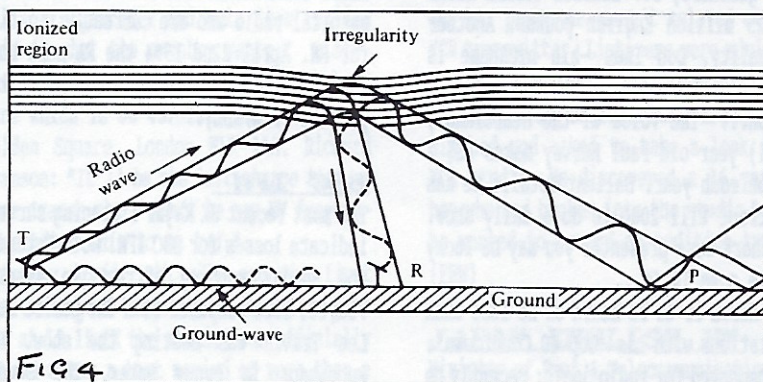
cycles which exceeded the 150 count mark are as follows: 1755 (150), 1778 (160), 1947 (152) and yet another record breaker: 1957 (201). Information about our current sunspot cycle (22) is a bit patchy, but it seems that the sunspot count was not so high, say 120. Still quite a high figure, but as mentioned before this was offset by the poor ionospheric conditions until recently? It is predicted that the next 40 years will be characterized by medium to high values of sunspot activity as has been the case over many decades since. The implication of lower sunspot activity is that the MUF will be considerable lower and long distance broadcasting propagation will have shorter periods of time and with reduced signal levels. Thus broadcasting using ionospheric reflection, HF bands will continue to react to the influence of the sun and undoubtedly more vital communications circuits will be switched to



PART 4: SUNSPOTS & CYCLES

Since HF radio transmissions is depending on the ionosphere, which varies with the sunspot cycle, the action of the cycle is of extreme interest to communicators. When the sunspot count is high ionization of the earth, atmosphere is heavy and the MUF is high opening up additional bands for long distance operation.

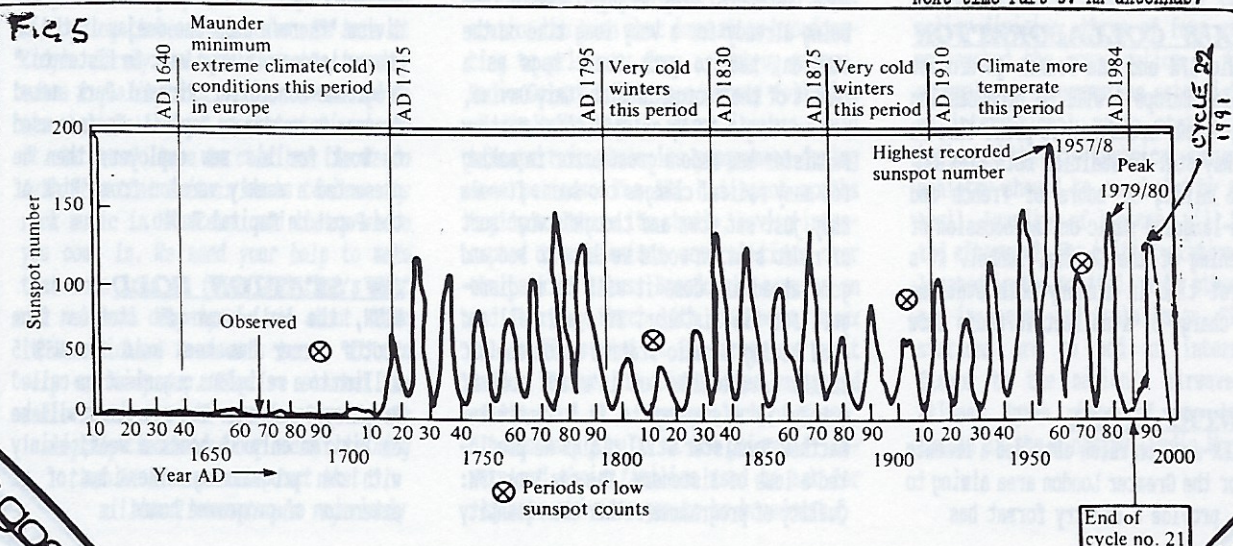
At the same time bands that were already open such as the lower end of the HF spectrum (eg 3 to 11 MHz), are much more sensitive and providing stronger and louder signals! It is well-known that the sunspots vary in number over 11 years periods. We're now in 1994 coming up to a sunspot minimum. The high of this latest cycle was in 1990, but due to ionospheric



was cycle 21 (1978-1984). Cycle 21 reached its peak of about 150 during the summer of 1979, making it among the most intense ones since records began. Data of other

satellites to overcome the unpredictable nature of ionospheric reflection. Figure 5 shows peaks and troughs of sunspot counts over decades.

Next time Part 5: RX antennas.



NEWS FROM AROUND THE



RICH CONTRACTS

Within the mighty American and Australian radio industry, the most unbelievable deejay contracts are concluded. As a result some have made their pile within a couple of years! Recently an Australian on air personality concluded a big deal. His annual salary: £ 800,000 excluding several expenses he makes which are paid separately by his employer!

Best paid Dutch deejays are people like Veronica's Jeroen van Inkel and NOS deejay Frits Spits. Their annual salaries aren't exceeding £ 100,000/ DM 88,000/ £ 36,000. But what to think of some of their US colleagues? Best paid presenter is Howard Stern. His radio show is to be heard in New York and five other major cities on a number of different radio stations. 38 year old Howard is certainly NOT a poor guy: he earns no less than US\$ 3.5 million which is the equivalent of 6.3 million Dutch guilders, 5.7 million German Marks or 2.25 million English pounds. Another personality, Don Imus -his nickname is 'The Morning Mouth'- 'only' earns US\$ 3 million... 'The Voice of the Heartland', 73 (!!) year old Paul Harvey makes US\$ 2 million each year. Salient detail: he has a contract till 2000 to do a daily show. As a short wave presenter you may be lucky to make some IRC's...

Casey Kasem is to be heard on no less than 450 stations with his 'Top 40 Countdown'. Unprecedented for radio jocks: recently he got a star on the pavement of the Hollywood Boulevard, the 'Walk of Fame' among all those famous movie and TV stars. And still poor Casey only earns US\$ 1.5 million (FRW/Veronica).

UNIQUE COLLABORATION

BBC Radio 1FM and the French government controlled Europe 2 will be broadcasting a joint 3 hour broadcast at prime time on Friday May 6th. In addition both stations will be airing 30 hours of French and English-language music on the occasion of the opening of the Channel Tunnel. It's the first time in history both stations are in charge of a collective radio show (FRW).

COUNTRY 1035

The ILR-station which obtained a licence for the Greater London area aiming to provide a country format has

announced to be starting operations under the name London Country Radio 1035. According to John Wellington who's chairman of the new radio station, the name is clearly referring at the music format and the spot on the dial where to find the station. Country 1035 started by the end of March (FRW).

EXTENSION BRITISH FM

The Radio Authority has announced that from 1996 onwards the FM frequencies within the 105-108 MHz range will become available for radio broadcasting. The transmitters will have to be low-powered. The upcoming decades no further extensions are to be expected according to a RA spokesman. The RA published a consultative document asking any interested parties for their views on the future use of 105 to 108 MHz. Options include a 4th national commercial station, local stations serving small communities and even allocation for hospital radio who are currently fighting for FM. April 22nd 1994 the RA must have received the comments made by interested parties (FRW/RBL).

BBC 1FM

The most recent UK Rajar listening surveys indicate losses for BBC 1FM. Both Saturday and Sunday morning attract in average 700,000 less compared with the period Dave Lee Travis was hosting the show. His successor is Danny Baker. The Sunday Evening Chart Show lost- compared with the same period a year ago- no less than 500,000 listeners! Matthew Bannister reorganised 1FM but the question is if this move has brought the station new and more listeners. Many deejays, some of them being already for a very long time on the station, had to pack their bags as a result of the reorganisation. Gary Davies, now at Virgin 1215, said: "I think Matthew Bannister has made a great error in making too many radical changes too soon. It seems they just sat down and thought: what sort of radio station would we like to see and gone ahead and done it with total disregard for the listener. It's all well and good having a radio station which the BBC thinks is credible but it's not good if nobody is listening to it." Controller Matthew Bannister still claims he predicted a loss of listeners. The new look 1FM: Quality of programmes rather than quantity

of listeners?!

1FM have invited a variety of comedy stars to join them on a Sunday afternoon on a new comedy spot. Bob Harris, who was no longer required on BBC Radio One, is currently presenting a Sunday afternoon show at the British Forces Broadcasting Service. His programme is beamed by satellite to BFBS stations in Germany, Belize, Gibraltar and Cyprus among others. Simon Bates, once a very popular Radio One jock, has concluded a contract with LBC. He's presenting a daily show between 9 and 12 AM (RBL).

MORE UK FIGURES

Melody Radio, the station with the easy-listening format having parallels with the former offshore station Radio 390, is the absolute winner when it comes to younger London stations. During peak hours an average of 115,000 listeners are being tuned to the station. Not bad looking at the highly competitive London radio market. Other new-comers' figures: Classic FM 87,000, Spectrum Int. Radio 69,000, KISS FM 59,000, Virgin 1215 46,000 and Jazz FM 40,000. The stations existing for a longer period 'score' as follows: Capital FM 667,000, BBC Radio 4 578,000, Radio 2 346,000, Radio 1FM 320,000, Capital Gold 229,000 and Radio 5 151,000 (FRW).

ALAN FREEMAN BACK ON THE WIRELESS

Merely three months after he left BBC Radio (what was thought to be the end of his active radio career) Alan Freeman returned on the radio March 13th. The management of Capital Gold have hired Freeman to present a Sunday Show using the device "there's only one deejay in the UK where listeners always want to listen to." Programme-controller Richard Park asked Freeman to return to Capital: Freeman used to work for his new employer; then he presented a weekly version from 'Pick of the Pops' on Capital Radio.

SW STATION SOLD

WCSN, the well-known SW station from Scotts Corner has been sold for US\$ 5 million to a religious organisation called Prophecy Countdown. The new owner will be on air for only 30 hours a week, mainly with own programming. The idea of an extension of programme hours

<FRS GOES DX> the magazine for the free radio enthusiast

is considered and could take effect in September. In the early 90's the organisation became known among Europeans via their pxs on Super Channel (FRW).

WWCN NEW YORK

WWCN New York changed its call-sign into WAXQ. The format has been altered and nowadays the station plays classic rock and hard rock. WAXQ is entering into competition with WXRK (Classic Rock), WNEW (Album Orientated Rock) and WHTZ (Contemporary Hits) (FRW).

VIRGIN LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN FOR FM LICENCE

British miljonair Richard Branson has launched a campaign to get his rock station on the FM dial. Over recent months special promos have been aired asking listeners for their signature to hand to the Radio Authority. This is in light of the 105- 108 MHz (see also elsewhere in this column!) frequency range becoming available in the UK. Branson hopes that Virgin 1215 will become the 2nd national commercial station on FM. He launched his appeal during Richard Skinner's Morning Show. Richard Skinner: "We are standing by to make an important decision about the future of this radio station. It is a very special day today in the history of Virgin because today marks the start of our official campaign to be moved on to the FM band. Until now it has been insisted, there's no space on FM for more radio stations but this week the Radio Authority announced that frequencies between 105 and 108 will become available next year. They haven't decided yet what sort of radio will go on those frequencies. We here at Virgin firmly believe that the country wants a quality rock station on FM and we also believe that we are the station to do it. But we do have to convince the Radio Authority that Britain wants to hear its rock music in FM stereo and that's where you come in. We need your help to make that move from AM to FM and that's what our national campaign is all about. Then it was Richard Branson's turn: "It's a very exciting day. When we started the radio station a year ago, our hands were slightly tied behind our backs obtaining that AM licence. The fact that 3 million listeners are regularly

listening is quite remarkable. If we can get all our listeners writing in, there's a real chance we get this FM frequency. It's quite bizarre. In parliament it was said that that the FM band could not be used by pop/rock stations. By getting a FM frequency we can hand back our AM frequencies to the Radio Authority which they then can use for community radio." The decision to start a campaign to be moved to FM wasn't a sudden decision. In the original application from years ago, Richard Branson already stated categorically that FM would be the best option if it was available. Virgin hopes to convince the Radio Authority that Britain wants to hear Virgin in FM stereo. Richard Branson: "If we literally can get people all over the country who'd like to see us in stereo, musicians and other people, to get petitions going maybe in their local clubs and schools and send these petitions to us, we could deliver anything up to 1 million signatures and make them realize this is what the country wants." Listeners are invited to call the special FM line which is 06-45751215 or write to 1 Golden Square, London W1R 1AA. Richard Branson: "It'll be the last chance that we have 'cause there won't be any FM frequencies after this to be had."

Saturday April 30th will see the first anniversary of Virgin 1215. Exactly a year ago at 12.15 AM the station was officially opened after a test period of more than a month.

PRISONER'S RADIO STATION SHUT DOWN

Sometimes we are reporting on strange incidents. Try this one... A pirate radio station has been shut down after broadcasting to prisoners from a lock-up garage. Radio Galaxy built up a strong following at Chelmsford jail where inmates would take part in phone-ins programmes during free periods. The DTI had spent months trying to locate its studio, having intercepted transmissions several times over the past 10 years. Broadcasts came to an end Thursday March 10th 1994 when Essex police discovered it in garage in Great Baddow, Essex. The transmitter was found on the roof of a nearby block of flats. "It was very popular at the prison. Prisoners and their families used to ask for requests and messages to be broadcast,"

said a spokesman for Essex Police. "The studio in the lock-up was a very professional set-up. I think it was run by some radio enthusiasts who wanted a community radio station and they found they had a captive audience" (Daily Telegraph). Talking of raids: on Fri evening March 11th the ITV programme 'The Bill' featured a story about the Sun Hill police and the DTI raiding a West Indian pirate radio station which was promoting 'rave parties' & drugs and was supposed to be run by the local 'drugs baron' (Neal West). And finally a third rather bizarre story: listeners tuning in to Yorkshire Coast Radio during the nightly hours do know the pxs of Minister FM are being relayed. Not too long ago, a number of listeners were surprised to hear a totally different type of programme in the evening hours. Lisa Hilton, who was hosting the Minister FM programme, was called and she was asked why her programme wasn't relayed over the YCR transmitter. Listeners were advised to retune their radio sets to Minister FM's frequency. An engineer was dragged from his bed and asked to take a look in the YCR studio. He discovered a 16 year old boy who had broken into the studio because he wanted to record an audition tape.... (FRW)

JAPAN ENGLISH FM

Ministry of Post & Telecommunications, in January, announced a plan for the first-ever foreign language FM station in Tokyo. The ministry said it started work on the frequency allocation and other technical matters. According to Kazumasa Saitoh, deputy division chief of the broadcast policy division, three of four companies approached the organization in the past several years suggesting establishment of an international radio station. Saitoh indicated that the technical survey by the ministry should be concluded by March or April. Awarding of licenses will be granted afterward. The initial station will be located in the capital, with others planned in Nagoya and Osaka later. The three stations are to add an international flavor to the nation's airwaves, said Akimasa Egawa, head of the broadcast bureau in the ministry (Radio World).

RADIO MILANO: SURROUND

If you have ever thought that Dolby Surround is a technology intended only for video and television, think again. Radio Milano Int. (RMI), one of the most respected Italian FM networks, has begun broadcasting some of its programme output in surround sound. According to information from Dolby, RMI is the first radio station ever to apply for a licensing agreement. At present, no other station is broadcasting multichannel audio in the surround format. "Technical innovations have always been one of the network's trademarks," said RMI audio specialist Canio Caprarella. "RMI was the first station in Italy to adopt a broadcast processor, and in general we are particularly concerned about the audio quality of our on-air signal".

Surround sound broadcasts at RMI will encompass late night programming initially, but plans are to extend it to other time periods soon after the end of the experimental stage. Dolby Surround is a multichannel audio format developed by Dolby Laboratories as a means of emulating the effects of Dolby Stereo soundtrack reproduction within the home environment and with domestic sound equipment (Radio World).

SUPER TRANSMITTERS

Thomson-CSF is currently building a new two megawatt long wave sender for Radio Luxembourg to be installed at Beidweiler. Recently the company secured another contract to supply three megawatts of transmission power to another major European broadcaster, Europe Number 1. The contract calls for the supply of three 1,000 kW units, two of which will be cophased to provide a 2,000 kW long wave sender at the Felsberg station. Europe Number 1, which transmits on a frequency of 183 kHz, is one of the four long wave super transmitters in Europe, these being: Radio France on 162 kHz from Allouis in Central France, Radio Monte Carlo on 216 kHz from Rounoules in Le Haute Alps, Radio Luxembourg on 234 kHz from Beidweiler in Luxembourg and Europe Number 1 on 183 kHz from Felsberg, Germany. Europe Number 1, which is properly named Europaische

Rundfunk und Fernsehen is a private commercial broadcasting station

which had its last refit in 1981. Powerful broadcasting stations such as these tend to remain in service for anywhere up to 40 years because of the extremely high initial costs. The advent of the high efficiency transmitter, which began with PDM, changed that thinking. The modern txs, with all solid state switching modulators,

WRTH 1994 EDITION

Hot from press: the 1994 edition of the 'bible' of SW radio books: the World Radio & TV Handbook. The book contains almost 600 pages. Publisher is the American company Billboard. This book is almost indispensable to any keen SW DXer.

THE RADIO STATIONS IN SOUTH TYROL/THE DOLOMITES

THE 5TH EDITION IS NOW AVAILABLE!!

THIS EXCITING BOOK, AIMED AT MEDIA FREAKS AND HOLIDAYMAKERS CONTAINS:

*** A LISTING OF MANY ADDRESSES, TELEPHONE AND FAX NUMBERS, FREQUENCIES, TARGET AREAS, PEOPLE RUNNING THE STATIONS FROM ALL GERMAN AND ITALIAN RADIO STATIONS BEING ACTIVE IN SOUTH TYROL/TRENTINO;**

*** PROGRAMME SCHEDULES FROM THE MOST IMPORTANT GERMAN AND ITALIAN LANGUAGE STATIONS;**

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In the book information about all radio & TV stations to be found on this planet. Major part of the book are the country-by-country listings of long wave, medium wave and short wave broadcasters by frequency, language and time. But also TV and satellite reception are part of the comprehensive listings of frequencies and programmes (see also FRS Satellite Telex). Special features include world satellite broadcasts, a receiver test report, worldwide broadcasts in English, broadcaster addresses and personnel and maps of principal transmitter sites. In the Netherlands the price of this fantastic annual publication is f 59,90.

Made in Holland

By Chris Latiers

Last time we reported about the assignment of terrestrial frequencies to five commercial stations.

A little reminder: the "winners" were: Radio Noordzee Nationaal, Classic FM, Radio 10 Gold, Holland FM and AM Nieuws. In the meantime a lot of developments have been taken place. The most sensational news regarded Holland FM. You can read about that in another part of FRSGDX.

PUBLIC BROADCASTERS REAL WINNERS

From a variety of sources statements have been heard Secretary of State d'Ancona has done the 'publicasters' a great favour. The new broadcasters are a minor threat to the system. Sky Radio would have been a great menace, but has been eliminated by getting no frequency. It's for sure Sky very probably would have been a great success, looking at its popularity in the Rotterdam area. Sky has been broadcasting until April 1st on 102.7 FM on a so-called left-over frequency. Sky quickly reached the number one position in the Rotterdam region. The 102.7 frequency has been assigned to Radio Noordzee Nationaal. It seems the success of Sky has been a disadvantage in the procedure. Sky will use all legal means to turn the decision back. In short the policy of the Secretary of State has been: give no frequency to the greatest rival, ban other potential threats to AM and give the FM frequencies to stations that will never do any harm to the public system.

Dutch Parliament has asked the Secretary to stop the five commercial stations starting their broadcasts until the other stations have had the opportunity to appeal against the decision. However the Secretary refused. In the meantime three stations have made their appearance.

LISTENERS SUPPORT SKY RADIO

More than 600 people responded to an advert from Sky, published in some papers. In the announcement, dated March 31st, the stations told the listeners the FM frequency had to be left by April 1st. Sky used this frequency from May 1992. Sky is pushing its listeners to create cable connections in different parts of the house like the bedroom and the kitchen. Soon the station will pu-

blish a leaflet with information for the do-it-yourselfer. In the Autumn a big campaign in papers and television will take place.

Sky's director, Ton Lathouwers, stated the station also got support from some big advertisers. These companies don't have any confidence in Radio Noordzee Nationaal.

Sky was very sure to get a license. They thought the most popular station certainly would get a frequency. You can imagine disappointment was very great. Quite an opposite reaction came from RTL Radio when they heard they got no frequency: "Ofcourse it isn't fantastic, but what can you do?"

SKY: SECOND STATION IN AUTUMN ON AIR

Sky Radio is planning to launch a second service in Autumn. This station will be aiming at the international market. Main shareholder, Rupert Murdoch's News International, has access to quite a number of satellites, also to be used by radio. Sky tries to get cable and terrestrial frequencies in Europe and Asia.

Until shortly Sky could be received in Holland and the United Kingdom only. Just recently Sky got a terrestrial frequency in Southern Italy. Because Sky's current station is also broadcasting music and news in Dutch, a second station must be established to expand abroad.

Other Sky shareholders, apart from Murdoch, are Rob Out and Peter de Jager. Sky on its turn is major shareholder of Radio 538.

RADIO NOORDZEE: TRIUMPH AND TROUBLE

A lot of people think it has been the aim of Secretary d'Ancona to get this station a license. There are very close ties between her department and the station.

It was announced major changes in programming had to be expected. Very famous presenters would join the station. However, the changes that have taken place in the meantime were not very spectacular. Managing director Martin Banga expects the audience will triple soon. RNN thinks in 18 months time the marketshare will reach 15 percent. Compared with a current share of 1,8 percent...

April 1st RNN started transmitting on FM.

It seems the station will get into rough weather the coming months. Here are some facts:

Some angry music-publishers are proceeding against the BUMA. This organization regulates the copyrights of music in the Netherlands. BUMA has put a lot of money, some 6 million guilders, into RNN. Part of this money comes from other stations, playing records. These stations are financing a competitor. Add to this that RNN is - partly - owned by two musicpublishers (Stregholt and Publi Music) and it all gets very confusing. Certainly some parties have mixed interests. Sentence in this case will pass towards the end of the year.

Also an auditor is investigating the financial ties between BUMA and RNN. Rumours say the Department of Justice has asked for this investigation. Willem van Kooten (Joost den Draaijer), main shareholder of Holland FM reacted: "At last!"

Early April it became obvious RNN has serious financial troubles: the station has a total debt of 6,5 million guilders, made a loss of 2,2 million guilders the last two years and is losing at this very moment 10,000 till 15,000 guilders each day! If the station hadn't got any frequency it would have been the end of RNN. Even a delay of the assignment would have been fatal. Maybe you will understand a little more of the dubious role of Secretary d'Ancona, as described earlier.

And at top of this all: Radio 538 has lodged a complaint against RNN by the "Commissariaat voor de Media" (the Dutch FCC). Radio 538 boss Lex Harding has found four breaches of the rules and Medialaw:

1. RNN would play mainly Dutch productions. However: that's only a fact during the evening and night. During daytime only 50% of the records is of Dutch origin.
2. When the time is announced the presenter says "Swatch time is now...". That kind of announcement has been forbidden to Radio 538 in January.
3. RNN is playing a game in which the trademarks of the prizes is announced. That's also against the law.
4. A commercial has been played without the obliged tune.

The Commissariaat has to study on these complaints yet.

Made in Holland

APRIL 18th:

AN IMPORTANT DATE AGAIN

April 18th 1973 was a very important day in the history of radio in Holland: Dutch Parliament debated about the future of offshore radio. Monday April 18th 1994 will be another more or less important day: a committee of members of Parliament will conduct a hearing about the assignment of terrestrial frequencies. The losers will get the opportunity to underline their arguments against the decision of the Secretary. Whether or not this will be successful it promises to be a "hot hearing". Especially Sky Radio and Radio 538 are planning to attack fiercely the Secretary's decision and the procedure she has followed.

HOLLAND FM: PRIJSBEWUST

Sunday March 30th Holland FM introduced a new game: "Prijsbewust". However, new... It was already played on RNI in the early seventies. Deejay Tony Berk was the host. The game became immense popular in Holland. In 1986 Radio Monique re-introduced the game. Again hosted by Tony Berk. And now Prijsbewust made its third come-back. Not too surprising when you realize Tony Berk is now one of the owners of Holland FM. You can listen to Prijsbewust each Sunday afternoon at one o'clock Dutch time. Nowadays the game is presented by Eddy Ouwens. He is a record producer and also a former Monique jock. In the first broadcast on March 30th an old tape was played: the first Prijsbewust game on Radio Monique. Candidate in that 1986 programme was Mrs. Volker. Maybe you recognize the name...

THE LATEST FIGURES

The marketshares of the main radio stations in Holland:

	oct 93	nov/dec 93	jan/febr 94
Radio 1	11,2	9,9	9,6
Radio 2	7,5	6,8	7,1
Radio 3	26,7	26,4	25,5
Radio 4	3,1	2,8	2,8
Radio 5	1,4	1,1	1,2
Sky Radio	7,7	8,3	7,6
Radio 10	9,7	7,6	8,0
Radio 538	2,6	3,6	3,6

Holland FM	2,7	2,4	2,6
Noordzee	2,2	1,5	1,8
Happy RTL	1,8	2,0	1,9
Love Radiol	1,1	1,0	1,1

The start of Radio 10 Gold on 675 AM hasn't had any major consequences yet. We are very curious about the next surveys.

RADIO EXHIBITIONS

In you stay in Holland this Spring or Summer, you have the unique chance to visit two exhibitions all about radio. Friday June 3rd at 16.00 hours an exhibition about the Dutch language offshore radio

the M.O.A. (August 31st 1974). As from Saturday June 4th the exhibition is open for the public. The exhibition is to be found in the Dutch Omroepmuseum at the Oude Amersfoortseweg 121-131 in Hilversum. It's a 10 minute walk from the Central Railway Station in Hilversum. Offshore enthusiasts have the chance to take a look until September 4th 1994. The next item is not directly linked with offshore radio. We publish it in this column because it also concerns an exhibition. This second exhibition is held in the Dutch PTT museum in De Hague under the name 'On the air...off the air'. In the

FRS BOOK REVIEW by Hans Kuot **HISTORY OF INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING**

This hardcover contains no less than 255 pages. The book is an acquisition for any SW radio DXer. Even though some of the info is rather 'tough'. Right from the very first moment experiments were carried out, the history of SW radio is being told. All more or less important goals of SW radio stations in over the past decades are described. In this way it was quite amazing for me to read that Marconi already in 1906 - in cooperation with Telefunken - was experimenting with a tx having an output of no less than 300 kW!! Another fact worth mentioning is the good description of the activities of GBR, a British station based in Rugby. It was in 1926 that GBR was 365 days 24 hours a day active on the airwaves. Next highlight of the book is the chapter in which is explained what the advantages of SW radio were for the radio amateurs in the early years of this century. The author of this book, **James Wood**, has been doing research for a couple of years and for that purpose has been visiting many countries. Of course he's also paying attention to the role of the radio in World War II, the propaganda radio, the influence of the Voice of America and other similar stations, the power of stations like Radio Monte Carlo and the super power stations from the Middle east. In a separate chapter religious stations are being discussed. The book is illustrated with several photos and pictures. In a number of special chapters, which are a supplement, subjects like the Gulf war, James Wood expresses his point of view about the future of propaganda radio and the sale of so-called super power transmitters. James Wood is a consulting-engineer but in the past few years he has proved to be a talented free-lance journalist. The book costs 30 English pounds and is worth every penny because of the wealth of information. Orders can be done via **The Institution of Electrical Engineers, P.O.Box 96, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2SD England.**

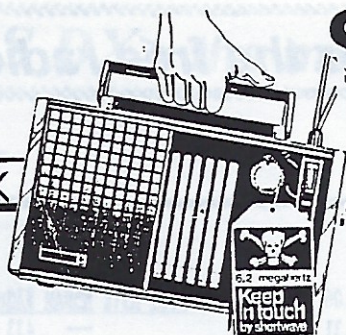
stations will be officially opened in Hilversum. A great number of unique things will be exhibited ranging from the sailor's clothes used on the MV King David (Capital Radio) to transmitting tubes used on the Mi Amigo. August 1994 will see the 20th anniversary of the Dutch version on

1920s more and more radio transmitters were being used in the Netherlands and as a result more and more wavelengths had to be allocated. In 1927 the PTT decided to found the RCD having the task to regulate and control the use of radio frequencies. The whole history

Made in Holland

To be continued on page 9 column 3!

SHORT WAVE SURVEY



Freq Time Name of the station U.K. Cont. Remarks

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 19th 1994

6229	09.25	Unid (JRR?)	555	---	
6290	10.49	Radio Orion	444	---	

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 20th 1994

3021	00.10	Green Music Radio	---	232	See news
3910	16.01	Reflections Europe	1--	---	
6205	16.00	Reflections Europe	555	---	
6210	10.30	Ozone Radio	232	---	
6211	09.16	Radio Diamond	555	333	See news
6225	10.31	Emerald Radio	222	333	
6229	09.23	Britain Radio	343	222	Via JRR
6229	10.02	Jolly Roger Radio	1--	222	
6233	11.57	Radio Speranza	---	322	religious mx
6248	09.02	Transatlantic Radio	343	343	
6252	13.05	Unid	---	232	German
6255	10.17	Free Radio Norway	---	443	
6270	15.45	East Coast Radio	454	---	
6290	11.42	XTC	232	333	
6295	08.53	Radio Pirana	---	444	USB mode
6400	15.44	Angel FM	242	---	
7294	09.00	Radio Europe	---	444	
7373	10.13	Unid	---	232	
7373	11.00	RWI	---	222	
7380	08.50	Idea Radio	---	333	test loop
7414	08.49	FRSH	---	443	
7419	08.26	WGAS	---	433	
7423	10.35	Radio Free East Coast	---	444	
7484	09.08	Radio Marabu	---	443	
9980	10.56	Radio Meteor	---	232	E,Finnish
9984	10.10	Radio Meteor, Finland	---	232	

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 26th 1994

6200	14.44	Delta (Ruurlu)	454	---	See news
6910	07.52	Radio Dublin	242	---	

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 27th 1994

3910	16.01	Reflections Europe	1--	---	
6200	10.07	Popcorn	1--	0=1-4 test	
6200	10.25	Wahnsinn	1--	0=1-4 Via ROU;100W	
6205	16.00	Reflections Europe	444	---	
6210	10.01	Unid	1--	---	
6213	12.42	Brigitte	1--	333	Birthday show
6225	07.52	Emerald Radio	454	232	
6229	09.27	Jolly Roger Radio	343	233	See news

6229	12.39	Britain Radio	454	222	Via JRR
6287	12.40	Live Wire	555	344	
6290	11.51	XTC	454	333	
6290	12.54	Sierra Foxtrot 03	242	222	QSO in LSB
6290	12.55	Radio Anorak	343	222	QSO
6400	10.46	Angel FM	1--	--1	
6910	07.64	Radio Dublin	1--	---	

SATURDAY MARCH 5th 1994

3905	23.56	Subterranean Sounds	---	343	
3910	23.35	Unid	---	131	Russian?
3918	23.48	Pirana	---	333	
6210	11.34	Unid	1--	---	
6295	08.00	Caroline	555	---	
6910	10.18	Radio Dublin	1--	---	
7294	09.05	Radio Europe	---	444	USB mode
7380	09.10	Idea Radio	---	333	

SUNDAY MARCH 6th 1994

3021	00.25	Green Music Radio	---	222	See news
3905	00.15	Subterranean Sounds	---	333	
3910	16.01	Reflections Europe	343	---	//6205
3913	00.31	Moonlight	---	232	Calling Cq
3913	12.55	Moonlight	---	332	See news
3921	00.15	Sierra Foxtrot 03	---	232	
6201	12.13	TBS Radio	---	444	Cq call
6203	09.40	WNKR	---	333	popmx
6205	16.00	Reflections Europe	555	---	Religious
6208	12.05	Unid	---	131	Music
6220	10.14	WGAS	454	343	See news
6229	09.26	Jolly Roger Radio	444	222	
6233	07.00	Radio Speranza	---	433	
6240	10.26	Ozone Radio	555	333	
6255	09.54	East Coast Commercial	555	433	
6270	10.04	Crazy Wave Radio	1--	433	See news
6280	09.00	FRSH	343	422	See FRS Newsc
6285	13.05	Unid	---	131	Music
6295	09.11	Radio Caroline	555	444	
6306	07.00	La voz del CID	---	343	Political talk
6400	14.42	Angel FM	232	222	
6401	10.05	Unid	---	232	Angel?
6555	12.50	Hit Radio Exact	---	343	D,popmx
6910	10.25	Radio Dublin	1--	---	poor mod
7120	12.55	Idea Radio	---	222	
7294	08.59	Radio Europe	1--	444	
7380	07.05	Idea Radio	---	333	
7380	10.10	Marabu	---	232	Via Idea R.
7410	10.53	Fusion	---	444	Test
7416	10.30	Unid	---	444	D,test
7474	09.50	Starline	232	333	Cq call

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SUNDAY MARCH 6th 1994 (Cont.)

7484	07.33	Waves	1--	343	//11401
7484	11.18	Voice of HardRock	---	443	Via RWI
7511	10.16	Brigitte	---	433	
11401	09.30	Radio Waves	---	343	

SATURDAY MARCH 12th 1994

3885	23.40	US HAMS	---	333	
3905	22.40	Level 48	---	231	fading
6295	10.00	Caroline	---	333	From Waterford
7380	13.45	Marabu	---	333	See news

SUNDAY MARCH 13th 1994

3910	16.01	Reflections Europe	1--	---	
3932	16.17	Moonlight	---	333	E,rock mx
6205	16.00	Reflections Europe	343	---	
6225	10.23	Emerald	---	322	E,popmx
6229	08.20	Jolly Roger	1--	232	C&W mx
6233	10.00	Radio Speranza	---	322	From Italy
6252	09.07	Level 48	232	---	
6254	13.54	Pirana	---	333	E,test
6295	11.22	Radio Caroline	232	333	
6305	10.24	Pamela	---	322	E,rock sounds
6399	09.47	Optimod	---	333	Via Angel
6399	11.30	Angel	---	333	
6910	10.00	Dublin	---	443	
7125	12.30	Calypso	---	333	Via IRRS
7294	09.00	Europe	---	444	USB
7380	09.15	Marabu	---	333	Via Idea R.
7380	10.05	Idea Radio	---	443	

SATURDAY MARCH 19th 1994

3905	18.10	Meteor	---	443	
3932	17.35	Moonlight	---	333	Qso-ing
3932	17.39	Jimmy	---	433	Qso-ing
3933	17.45	Meteor	---	444	Qso-ing
3933	18.30	Black Eagle	---	333	Qso-ing
6229	10.10	Jolly Roger Radio	444	232	E,country stuff
6295	09.28	Radio Caroline	555	433	E,popmx
7125	12.05	Francis Drake	---	444	Via IRRS
7294	09.20	Europe	---	444	
7294	10.30	Radio Dr.Tim	---	333	
7380	08.50	Idea Radio	---	333	

SUNDAY MARCH 20th 1994

3905	10.01	Jimmy	---	444	Cq call
3906	10.06	Daiwa	---	443	Qso to Jimmy
3910	16.01	Reflections Europe	1--	---	

3913	10.06	Moonlight	---	333	QSO-ing
3932	17.31	Unid	---	433	
6205	16.00	Reflections Europe	555	---	
6220	09.48	WGAS	1--	333	Car. feature
6229	09.23	Jolly Roger Radio	555	232	
6233	09.30	Speranza	---	222	Religious
6240	10.25	Unid	---	131	Music
6255	09.41	Pirana	454	333	E,Spanish
6256	11.10	XTC	454	332	E,music
6275	09.55	Unid	---	222	Music
6280	11.02	Unid	454	333	
6285	09.31	Starline	---	333	Oldies
6285	11.39	Safari	---	343	
6295	10.07	Radio Caroline	444	343	
6400	10.08	Optimod	444	232	Media news
6400	11.03	Angel FM	555	222	
6555	10.10	Brigitte	1--	444	D,E,music
6558	13.23	Brigitte	---	444	Qso-ing
6910	10.24	Dublin	1--	---	
7294	08.00	Europe	---	444	
7294	10.50	Dr.Tim	---	444	
7380	09.00	Idea Radio	---	333	
7423	11.15	Unid	---	333	
7484	10.23	Perfekt	1--	343	
7484	11.41	Waves	343	343	
12265	11.50	Wrekin' Radio	---	232	

SATURDAY MARCH 26th 1994

3905	09.45	Daiwa	---	433	Qso-ing
3910	19.00	Daiwa	---	333	popmx
3913	09.48	Moonlight	---	333	D,qso-ing
3915	23.55	Pirana	---	333	E,48 report
6220	12.40	WGAS	---	343	Caroline extr.
6295	10.16	Radio Caroline	555	---	
6910	10.53	Dublin	1--	---	
7125	12.20	Francis Drake	---	444	See news
7294	11.40	Perfekt	---	444	G,country mx
7294	12.00	Europe	---	444	

SUNDAY MARCH 27th 1994

3905	00.47	WGAS	---	222	popmx
3910	15.01	Reflections Europe	1--	---	
3915	00.06	Pirana	---	333	rockmx
3915	00.10	Sierra Foxtrot 07	---	232	E,qso-ing
3915	00.11	Starshine	---	333	Qso-ing
3915	00.14	Pirana	---	443	Qso-ing
6205	15.00	Reflections Europe	555	---	
6207	09.18	Unid (Dutch)	444	444	test
6210	09.36	Unid	---	131	popmx
6210	09.42	Ozone	343	343	
6220	09.48	WGAS	343	343	

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SUNDAY MARCH 27th 1994 (Cont.)

6229	09.16	Jolly Roger Radio	1--	333	
6234	10.00	Britain Radio	232	444	//7360
6239	11.58	Unid	---	222	music
6240	10.02	Jolly Roger Radio	242	---	
6254	11.00	Pirana	---	343	E, popmx
6295	09.30	Caroline	444	343	
6516	07.57	Unid	---	232	
6557	09.15	Brigitte	---	443	E, G, D, F
6911	10.35	Dublin	242	442	
7294	07.50	Europe	---	444	
7294	09.18	Perfekt	---	444	
7294	10.40	Marabu	---	444	
7360	10.00	Britain	---	343	
7380	07.50	Idea Radio	---	333	
7479	08.30	Radio Benelux	---	242	

We are sorry for not having included the Easter logs. Due to the fact that the person compiling this column had to deal with important private commitments, he was unable to have everything ready in time!

Conditions have been a spoilsport for many station OPs and SW DXers. Last issue we reported about the unusual winter conditions in January and the first two weeks of February. Let's take a brief look at the rest of February, March and the Easter weekend.

February 20th: fair conditions.

February 27th: poor/fair conditions.

March 6th : fair conditions.

March 13th : bad conditions.

March 20th : fair conditions.

March 27th : fair conditions.

April 3rd : poor conditions.

April 4th : poor conditions.

Looking at this survey one may draw the conclusion that things don't look too good. With the summer slowly but surely approaching, conditions don't get better, on the contrary! During the past few summers conditions were quite unreliable and no doubt the same will happen this upcoming summer. It is not very encouraging for free radio stations putting a lot of effort in preparing and recording shows and finding out next that the listeners feedback is very poor. The current conditions remind one to 1984 when conditions also became awful during the winter period and remained poor for quite some time. In this respect Chris Watson's technical feature of this month is very much worth reading....

During the first months of 1994 several Euro pirates were relayed in the USA and it seems some of them were quite successful. Here are some facts: Southern Music Radio on 7435 January 29th via the NAPRS; Radio Titanic Int. January 30th on 7408 and 7410, on Febr. 3rd, 5th, 13th on 7415 via the NAPRS and on Febr. 12th on 7417 via WREC; Heavy Dude Radio

on February 26th on 7415; a Radio Lollipop tape was heard too each weekend in February. Most of the shows were carried out in USB mode, some in AM. At least Radio Titanic gave some more info about the results: more than 30 reception reports were received so far and the OPs learnt that long distance reception up to 2000 km (and even more!) was possible when the relays were carried out at local time in the afternoon hours (which is 23.00 UTC or 5.00 pm local time). One of our readers suggests why it isn't possible for Euro pirates to give it a try in the afternoon at local European time (1600 or 17.00 UTC) as well for trms on 41 or 75 metres. There should be a good chance for long distance reception on 41 metres. On the other hand he's adding the 41 mb is overcrowded most of the day and it seems a lot of Americans aren't aware of this fact. April 2nd two US stations were received in Europe with fair signals bridging over a distance of some 6000 km! XEROX/Radio Duplicado was noted around 00.40 UTC on 7385 and the North American Pirate Relay Service was heard at 06.00 UTC on 7415. At present time best reception for US stations is between 23.00- 06.00 UTC on 7385, 7415 and 7485 kHz. These frequencies are clear except 7415 between 04.30- 05.30 UTC when there is a VOA Botswana relay! A good indication to find out whether there are real long skip conditions is checking out the CHU time signal from Canada- the conditions are favourable when the CHU time signal is well heard on 7335 kHz/41 metres! Be aware that most US stations are broadcasting in USB. More US tests to come: in April the NAPRS is hoping to test each and every Saturday morning at 05.35 UTC at one of the aforementioned frequencies. A tip: don't mix US pirate signals with Central American fishing boats talking Spanish in USB mode!

RADIO ORANG UTAN returned to the airwaves Sunday February 27th with a test broadcast on 6200. Programmes of two German stations-Radio Popcorn and Radio Wahnsinn-were aired until approx. 11.00 UTC. Judging the signal-strength a strong tx was in use. Conditions that morning were very poor but even though, a solid signal was to be heard on 6200. In the Midlands the signal quality was poor but we think that was a result of the appalling conditions that morning rather than a low-powered tx. After that test, no further ROU broadcasts have been monitored. At present time (early April) ROU Freddie is in hospital. Hopefully he will recover very soon. Keep your pecker up Freddie! All the best from all at FRS. Address ROU still is Box 114, 7040 AC 's-Heerenberg in the Netherlands.

RADIO PIRANA has been quite active on 48 & 76 metres. A number of nighttime trms took place on 3910, 3918 & 3921 (LSB). In February (20th) a strong 6295 kHz (USB) signal was noted. That same day the station was qso-ing with Starshine and both stations were giving to understand by an official station to leave their frequency immediately! As a result both free radio stations shifted to from 3927 down the band to 3900. That was not the end of the incident: the coastal (?) station followed and was again intervening the qso, making serious threats that a report would be sent to an official authority. This meant the end of the qso although Starshine was again

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calling CQ after a short while! According to Radio Pirana it's best for free radio OPs to broadcast in LSB on 76 metres. Sun March 13th saw a Pirana test on 6254 and following that test a number of trms were made on this frequency (March 20th & 27th, April 4th). Radio Pirana can be contacted via (1). Thanks to Pirate Connection for this news item!

ANGEL FM seems to have been shifting to a new frequency: 6400. The station used to be on 6219 kHz. Following the raid on Radio Atlantis this part of the dial was hardly used by SW stations. 6400 became popular because of West & North Kent Radio using it for a long period. Angel FM was noted February 27th, March 6th, 13th & 20th, April 3rd and 4th. The signal quality is poor/fair on the continent. Address is 65 Lucknow Street, Portsmouth, Hampshire PO1 1PP in England.

LIVE WIRE RADIO was noted February 27th qso-ing with XTC. At a certain moment transmitting power was decreased to a mere 5W. Nevertheless a crystal-clear signal was noted on 6287 in Holland! This indicates the station is making use of an efficient antenna system and could also indicate the use of a favourable transmitting location. Address is (2).

RADIO BRIGITTE, Belgian's only SW free radio station, celebrated its ?? birthday February 27th on 6213 kHz. The majority of broadcasts is taking place on so-called out-of-band frequencies: March 6th Brigitte was noted on 7511, the 20th on 6555 with a fine signal and March 27th on 6557. Congratulations to the staff for another year of SW broadcasts. Address is Brigitte van Gelder, Box 10, 7954 ZG Rouveen in the Netherlands.

The **XENON TRANSMITTING COMPANY**, usually not one of the most active stations on the bands, was heard with a number of broadcast in the past 7 weeks. February 20th & 27th as well as Easter Monday April 4th XTC was active on 6290. Sun March 20th 6257 was in use. Taking the sometimes miserable conditions into account, XTC put out nice signals on the continent. In particular the modulation level was on a very high level giving the

station a very loud signal. As far as we know XTC uses only some 15W and in this respect it can be truly said the station's output is very efficient. Address is (1).

RADIO MERLIN might return in the not too distant future. New transmitting equipment is already achieved. Word has it a 100W tx will be installed for future broadcasting purposes. This would enable the station to put out a very solid signal in Great Britain but also on the continent. Andy Walker announced in one of his shows on WGAS that the Box 1218 address in Chelmsford has now closed down due to authorities exertion.

Talking of addresses: the well-known Finnish **JYVASKYLA ADDRESS** was raided by police in cooperation with a radio official. Most of Finland's free radio stations were using this address (see also FRSGDX 127). All mail can now be sent to RWR using the Wuppertal (1) maildrop (Pirate Connection).

RADIO DELTA RUURLO is currently inactive. If this is a direct result of the Radio Orang Utan raid is uncertain, fact is it wouldn't be very astonishing if it is. The last time Delta was noted was on Saturday February 26th on 6200 kHz with an old fashioned strong signal. Recently Delta has been heard on medium wave on near 1640 kHz. Address is Box 65, 7260 AB Ruurlo in the Netherlands.

The unid in FRSGDX 127 on Sun Febr. 13th was **CRAZY WAVE RADIO**. For German listeners the station is also identifying as Welle Wahnsinn. Don't confuse the latter with Radio Wahnsinn!! Radio Wahnsinn is a station relayed by others such as Radio Orang Utan and the BIRS.

Welle Wahnsinn/CWR is using own transmitting equipment since Sept. 26th when the first test took place. The station uses a 30W tx connected to the much used half wave dipole antenna. The station has a nice looking photo qsl available for those dropping them a line. Looking back at the past two months we can report that Crazy Wave Radio was heard a few times on the upper part of the 48 mb. March 6th a weak signal was noted on 6270 and the same applies to Easter Mon April 4th. Interesting was that on the 6th March the CWR

deejay was complaining about German fellow stations who don't operate with own txs: the so-called cassette stations. The address of CWR is (7). CWR has now joined the stations already part of Level 48, a collaboration of approx. 10 German SW free radio stations. By the way, the address of Radio Wahnsinn is (1).

LEVEL 48 was heard Sat March 12th on 3905 with a weak signal suffering from deep fading. Sun March 13th Level was noted on 6252. Address is (7).

RADIO MARABU sent us a press release in which the station announces that since March 7th daily SW broadcasts are being made via Idea Radio having its seat in Genova, Italy. The broadcasting schedule: Mon-Fri: 12.30-13.30 CEST 7380 and 7120. Sat/Sun: 10.00-11.00/14.30-15.30 CEST 7380 and 7120. Output of the 7380 is 5 kW and 0.05 kW is used on 7120. Radio Marabu can be contacted via (1).

So now and then several stations are involved in a 'mass qso event'. Sun February 27th XTC, Sierra Foxtro 03, Radio Anorak and LWR were qso-ing on frequencies in the 6287-6290 range. A number of Dutch stations-Meteor, Moonlight, Jimmy and Black Eagle- were qso-ing on 3932/3933 Sat March 19th at a bit of an unusual time: 17.40 UTC. The following day saw Jimmy, Daiwa and Moonlight once again in the 76 mb at 10.00 UTC (!!). It seems several Dutch stations prefer to qso each Wednesday around 3933 kHz between 16.00- 18.00 UTC!!

RADIO WAVES INT. was noted March 6th on 7484/11401. Two weeks later the station was heard on its former 7473 frequency relaying a station calling itself The Voice of Hardrock. During most of March RWI was inactive. Sun March 20th was the only date the RWI tx was in use, this time on 7484. Just like previous years, RWI was heard over the Easter weekend under the name WCS. Fri April 1st 7484 was in use, Sat April 2nd & Easter Sun April 3rd 7473 and Mon April 4th 7484 and 7441, not being in parallel with each other. Conditions during the Easter weekend were so awful that we could hardly hear RWI at the FRS monitoring

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post. So we are not 100% sure whether this was the final trm. We think it was!! Address is (4). This address will remain open.

LASER HOT HITS was heard with a fair continental signal Easter Sun April 3rd. Frequency was 6225. Another rare trm took place Febr. 13th. We are curious which people are behind this station. The same as a few years ago? Who can help us with some more info regarding this station?? Don't confuse Laser Hot Hits with Laser Rock. Address is Box 293, Merlin, Ontario NOP 1W0 in Canada.

RADIO STARSHINE was heard March 27th at 00.10 UTC on 3915 (USB). A spoof Radio Starshine was noted on April Fool's Day on 6285 and 6232. Address is (5).

BRITAIN RADIO INT. was heard twice on 6229 via the facilities of Jolly Roger Radio: February 20th & 27th. It looks like BRI is currently running a 4th Sun of the month schedule although this was not the case in February. March 27th BRI was noted on 6235//7360 kHz with especially on 48 metres a solid signal. As the Italian station Radio Speranza is currently on 6233, it could cause problems to BRI's fixed 6234 outlet, in particular on the continent where Speranza is being received with fair signals. Hopefully Roger Davis will get soon in touch with FRSGDX giving us an update. Addresses: (3) & (4).

RADIO STARLINE appeared twice on SW in March: on the 6th on 7475 and two weeks later on 6285 with oldies. Signals were fair. Add is (1). Don't confuse Starline (German) with Starshine (Sweden).

RADIO EAST COAST COMMERCIAL was heard March 6th and April 3rd. The good thing about the station is the regularity (every 1st Sun) and the fact the station is always putting out a solid signal. Even when conditions are poor ECC's signal is to be heard on 6255 which is the station's fixed frequency. For any radio enthusiast ECC's DX Show, presented by Norman Nelson and compiled by Neal West, is a must. Address is RECC, K-Flats, 9-11 Church Street, Cromer, Norfolk NR27 9ER in England.

RADIO DIAMOND from Den Helder tested on 6211 February 20th putting out a strong signal into the UK. That day conditions were weird which could declare a signal which was less strong compared with UK reception on certain locations on the continent. Address is Box 3037, 1780 GA Den Helder in the Netherlands.

OZONE RADIO continues with broadcasts on various 48 mb frequencies. In the past 6 to 8 weeks trms were noted on 6210, 6240 and 6279. April 3rd 6210 was used and later on that day 6279. The 6240 broadcast on March 6th suffered interference from the pope on 6245 kHz. Address is (3).

The **WORLD GREATEST ANORAK STATION** was heard a handful of times in the 48 mb. February 20th the station carried out a test on 7420/41 mb putting out an interview with somebody connected to the BIRS. That same morning WGAS relayed FRSH on 7414 and just before the end of the broadcast the double autoreverse cassette deck was stolen including the FRSH programme cassettes. Terry Phillips and Andy Walker were delayed because of traffic-jam and arrived not in time to catch the scum. March 6th a very strong signal was heard on 6220, a channel not often used by WGAS till that moment. The fact the 6280/6285 spots on the dial suffered from utility in the past months could be the reason for shifting down to 6220, as that seemed the clearest channel available channel at that time. Certainly not a bad choice! By the way, the reason WGAS was on air March 6th was that the week before, when the station should have been on, the mains had been removed from the transmitting site, so without electricity it was impossible to come on! The 6th March trm was actually made with a battery rig with only 22W. It certainly did go very well. During this trm it was announced WGAS was going to close down on SW in favour of FM broadcasts. The new cassette deck used for FRSH's repeat of the February broadcast on March 6th on 6280 caused not only serious problems (see FRS Newscorner) to FRS' broadcast but also to the WGAS one on 6220 March 20th. The modulation was distorted making the audibility rather poor. RF feedback... This trm was a very interesting one: Andy Walker revealed interesting news about Caroline's new ship and the

programme was continuously repeated throughout the day. March 27th saw another WGAS broadcast, this time with a nice mod and good signal strength. However: at just after 10.00 UTC a dead carrier appeared instead of the Free Radio Show! Sat March 26th WGAS was airing Caroline archive recordings on 6220 (because of Caroline's 30th anniversary) and the same was done a week later, April 2nd. March 27th at 00.47 WGAS was noted on 3945 with at least on the continent- a poor signal. No surprise: 76 mb conditions also tend to be rather poor!

Over the Easter weekend (both Sun & Mon) WGAS was heard on 6220 kHz. Unfortunately conditions that weekend were far from favourable. WGAS wasn't particularly lucky in the period lying behind. Problems the station did have includes the mod section blowing on their biggest rig, a mod transformer popping up on another and the already mentioned feedback on March 6th and 20th.

Since the raid on Radio Merlin Andy Walker is once again regularly heard on WGAS. Address of WGAS is (4) and not (1) mentioned in FRSGDX 127!

SUBTERRANEAN SOUNDS has been once again very active in the past two months. February 13th the 6276 suffered from deep fading. March 6th a nice signal on 3910 was received as far away as Berlin. Friday evening/Sat morning April 1st/2nd a live test was conducted on 3905 with a strong signal but poor mod. Easter Mon April 4th the station was using 3905 at 15.20 UTC! Address is (3).

RADIO MOONLIGHT is the new name for a Dutch station being raided on medium wave in 1993. A number of 75 mb broadcasts were noted in March: on the 6th, 13th and 19th. On the 6th Moonlight was heard at the unusual time of 12.55 UTC on 3913. Other frequencies being used are 3932 and 3915. The station is often qso-ing but so now and then also musical pxs are being put out. Address is Box 102, 7360 AC Beekbergen in the Netherlands.

A number of European Free Radio stations have been aired over **SWR SWITZERLAND** via the powerful 7125 kHz SW outlet of the Italian IRRS. The Effective

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Radiated Power is no less than 30 kW with a very loud mod on the upper side of the carrier. As you could read in FRSGDX 127 Euro pirates are offered airtime via Short Wave Radio Switzerland. SWR Switzerland is a small non-profit association and was founded in 1993 by enthusiastic SW DX-ers. The basic aim is to encourage Free Radio programming on SW and help small radio programmers to air through official, high powered legal stations. In fulfilling the aim, SWR Switzerland has to run an Int. Relay Service in Switzerland or abroad and as a result at present time they use the IRRS Italy outlet. Milano, Italy February 5th 1994: SWR Switzerland inaugurated on that date at 13.00 CET their first relay broadcast via IRRS, featuring a 60 minute Int. Music Radio's- Voice of basel transmission. Alfredo Cotroneo, president of NEXUS-IBA, stated on the occasion: "We are aware that not all of these programmes are strictly professional programmes as most of those relayed by IRRS-Shortwave, but we will try the best we can to help the most valuable producers to emerge, and, if possible, even try to get proper financing and sponsorship for them to continue. We have received clear indications, also from our listeners that an audience exists also for such productions, and we have missed the appointment until now, as every other major international broadcaster. We want to continue to be a real international community radio, which maintains a very tight and personal relation with all European listeners, and this is a splendid opportunity for us to fulfill our aims." NEXUS-Int. Broadcasting Organisation, who are operating the IRRS-Shortwave to Europe and IRRS-Globe Radio Milan on FM, are running the powerful 10 kW AM/30 kW USB tx, have offered SWR-Switzerland the lowest rates. For a direct impression of the NEXUS-IBA/IRRS-Shortwave operation, you may tune in Europe to the SW frequency 7125 daily from 07.00- 22.00 CET. Free Radio OPs around the globe are able to play their programmes over a S.W.R. Switzerland relay via the IRRS. According to SWR's info-sheet, stations who are taking a relay are getting a personal audience from all over Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. We made accidentally mention of Sunday relays which was untrue: stations are offered

relays on Sat afternoons now starting at 11.00 UTC (since the introduction of summer time) and lasting till 12.00 UTC (13.00- 14.00 CEST). Relay A (monthly, bi-monthly, three-monthly costs DM 60.00/£ 25.00/US\$ 35.00 for 60 minutes or DM 30.00/£ 10.00/US\$ 15.00 for 30 minutes. Relay B (an one-off broadcast) costs DM 70.00/£ 30.00/US\$ 40.00 for 60 minutes or DM 40.00/£ 15.00/US\$ 20.00 for 30 minutes. For more info write to: SWR Switzerland, P.O.Box 35, CH-6027 Romerswil in Switzerland.

Sat March 19th and 26th Radio Francis Drake was noted on IRRS' 7125 outlet. Radio Francis Drake used to be via Radio Orang Utan's tx till January of this year when Dutch authorities raided the station. Reception was splendid. Other stations who made use of this opportunity are Calypso Radio- the sunshine reggae music station from the Caribbean Sea, Southern Music Radio from New Zealand and Radio Casablanca. This latter station is of German origin and was noted Saturday April 16th with a 60 minute px and can be contacted via: Ringstrasse 9, D-26824 Stapelmoor in Germany. April 9th saw a repeat of a show of IMR-The Voice of Basel. Radio Fantasy, another German tape station, was aired April 23rd and April 30th will see the debut (?) of a station calling itself GBMS which stands for Germany's Better Music Station. In May Radio Francis Drake, Radio Joystick, IMR and GBMS have booked air time via SWR Switzerland. Due to this special service for free radio stations becoming popular, SWR Switzerland is aiming to extend the service with one hour as from July 2nd onward. That means that pxs are lasting from 11.00- 13.00 UTC. At present time the IRRS SW outlet is suffering severe interference from Radio Budapest and Radio Bulgaria also making use of 7125. This interference mainly takes place between 14.30- 18.00 UTC. Nexus has sent complaints to both broadcasters. What interests us how the listener's response has been for stations like IMR and Radio Francis Drake.... Thanks to Peter Galliker for sending us info on this subject!!

Another relay service we talked about in the previous edition was that of Radio Stella's Jock Wilson. At least: he was the person to contact. So far this service hasn't been heard. Plans are to have 76 mb

trms from Sat 20.30- Sun 10.00 UTC and from next 10.00- 15.30 UTC on 39 metres. Possible frequencies could be 7540 and 6810 kHz. Address to wrote to is: Jock Wilson, RSI, 82 Pentland Place, Kirkaldy Fife, Scotland. Power is 150W. We await further developments.

RADIO EUROPE from Italy seems to be putting out 500W PEP on 7294 kHz USB. Dr. Tim (usually via ROU; add=1) was heard March 20th on 7294 and was also noted via RWI on 7473 April 3rd. Radio Perfect (add=7) on the 26th/27th March with a country music format. Both are German stations and don't possess own transmitting equipment. Radio Europe can be contacted via Via Davanzati 8, 20158 Milano, Italy.

EMERALD RADIO is one of those stations being very active for a certain period and suddenly disappearing for a few months. And then all starts again. February 20th and 27th the station was heard on 6225, being rather close to another Irish station, namely JRR on 6229. Address is ERI, 8 Inverness Rd, Dublin 3 in Ireland.

JOLLY ROGER RADIO remains one of the most regular SW stations on the other side of the North Sea with almost weekly trms. Since February 20th only two Sun were skipped, all other Sundays JRR was on 6229. March 27th saw the station shifting frequency to 6240. Address is (4).

Word has it that famous Dutch medium wave broadcaster **RADIO SCOTLAND** will return to medium wave. In addition SW tests will be conducted next Summer! We are curious... In the past Scotland was raided several times. Address is Box 85, 9410 AB Beilen, the Netherlands (Pirate Connection).

SW NEWS IN BRIEF

The **VOICE OF GERMANY** is as yet a mysterious station testing April 1st on 6282. Is it a spoof one because of broadcasting on April Fool's Day? *** Talking of April Fool's Day: a send up of Free radio stations was noted on 6294 *** Which unid station was heard on the unusual 6516 spot on the dial March 27th?? *** April 3rd saw another unid on 6259 *** We can't get enough of unids: March 6th & 27th tests were noted on 6208 with

ARTWORK REPORTS....

frs goes dx

During the January-March period Russian pirate activity was rather low. Perhaps this is a result of bad atmospheric conditions, or due to mail-boxes which have been absolutely empty since the beginning of 1994.

Anyway, Green Music Radio International continues with its weekend night service. February 24th the station celebrated its 1st anniversary. Two different live shows were aired that night with all station staff in the studio. Early in the morning GMRI returned to the airwaves with a repeat of both shows. The station made use of professional studio equipment hired by GMRI's key figure. Included were a mixing console, three tape recorders and a record deck. In normal cases the station only uses a mike and one tape recorder. This time all listeners had the chance to hear what these guys can achieve with good equipment! Besides their favourite music, the 'Green boys' narrated the full GMRI story and even organized a competition. It was also mentioned that during the first year of broadcasting, some 30 reports had been received, mostly coming from the European part of the CIS. And: finally they told why they are green: the reason for this is that in the Russian language the word 'green' is synonymous for 'young'. And the name was born because they were very young compared with the first Russian pirate station RWBI already being two years old at the moment GMRI started operations. All reports for the GMRI jubilee shows have been confirmed with a special commemorative QSL-card. Finally a reminder for all those who never received the station. You have to listen during weekend nights.

6990 kHz 23.00- 00.00 UTC

3020 kHz 00.00- 01.00 UTC

6990 kHz 01.00- 02.00 UTC.

So far I know GMRI hasn't been deviating from this schedule. The address still is: P.O.Box 65, Moscow 125581 in Russia.

Romantic Space Studio in Moscow reactivated its production service (repaired equipment). Japanese pxs for RWBI were recorded. Some jubilee stuff for RWBI's 3rd anniversary is going to be produced. In the mean time this jubilee took place (late March). More about this happening in

FRSGDX 129. Now some more info about

Romantic Space Radio as an internationally relayed station. Let's

go back in time... More than a year ago RSR planned to be relayed by KIWI Radio in New Zealand. A show was prepared and a tape was sent to the KIWI address but not much later the main KIWI OP Graham Barclay suddenly disappeared. No letters, no info about broadcasts, no reports from listeners. Some info about KIWI was reported by David Miller in FRSGDX 125, but as for Russian Free Radio Fighters, they didn't get any KIWI news for quite a long time. Imagine my surprise when in the middle of February an unexpected letter from New Zealand reached our Moscow mailbox. The letter said: "we did air the RSR programme tape last year (1993-A.P.) and we intend to repeat it twice over the next two months, as part of a series of test trms. We are still on 41 metres in the 7554-7460 kHz range using AM or USB mode with up to 350W of power." As you see RSR was relayed but the following question remains for always: who listened to them 'cause we didn't get a single report. It's also nice to mention Graham Barclay will be sending a tape to Russia with arecording of KIWI plus another (yet unknown) station. Anyway, Russian pirate listeners will really get another opportunity to pick up a pirate radio station from the other end of the world. A German-Russian joint venture is being realized and will be broadcasting legitimate on AM. Radio Marabu has got an hourly night slot (fortnightly) via the Moscow-based radio station Echo of Moscow, broadcasting on 1206 kHz. I clearly remember the days when Radio Marabu was sometimes heard during weekends on 6320 via Radio Stella Int. Time flies by and in that period the usual independent music format of this radio station could be heard by everyone in Russia, not only by radio amateurs (as you know besides Echo of Moscow, Radio Marabu is relayed as well by Radio Polis in St. Petersburg and Radio Titan Company in Ufa). I can't inform you about the two latter stations but the Moscow outlet is very strange to listen to because of boring overvoice translation. Even Radio Marabu jingles are blocked by the voice-overs!!

The following report reached me by phone from our good friend and free radio supporter in Rostov on Dou, Igor Elizarov. He told me that he had been lucky to pick up a Russian clandestine station called Radio

Za Narod (Radio for People) Saturday January 22nd between 23.15-23.45 UTC. It was heard with deep fading providing a rather poor signal at Igor's location. The programme consisted of anti-semitic comments. Because the station was caught only once, I suppose it's an amateur project having no links with the real oppositional patriotic movement. Ofcourse it's impossible to say whether the station will be heard with another broadcast later this year.

Another bit of info from Rostov on Dou could be of interest for you because it's connected to a rather dark zone of European broadcasting, namely the Balkans. Strange, but despite a difficult political situation in that region, too many AM channels (1650-1720 kHz) are full of Yugoslavian pirates. Here's an extract from Igor's letter on this subject: "during the last months I heard too many Balkan pirates. At last it became possible to find out several names: Radio Romeo, Radio Phoenix, Radio Omega, Radio Oscar (the latter was heard in Moscow too). Their format usually consists of traditional music but sometimes you can even hear phone calls live on air! The signal-strength is mostly very good and I assume that their powers are 1 kW or even more. By the way: they use a very strange mix of languages: Serbian, Greek and English. I cannot mention any addresses because they spell the addresses in their local language." At the end of this column I must thank Igor for this bunch of interesting info and apologize for a delay with news from Radio Tornado/Baltic Coast Radio. Hope, you'll read it in the upcoming issue. Till then, it's goodbye from Moscow.



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FRS SATELLITE TELEX

Satellite Radio



Nowadays there are dozens of exciting radio stations to be found on the satellite dial. There's something for everyone. In FRS Satellite Telex we'll try to do some suggestions regarding interesting stations/programmes. Most stations are to be found on the Astra 1A/B/C satellite at 19 degrees west. However: also on a few Intelsat and Eutelsats there are interesting, exciting radio stations. Our plan is to publish every 4 months (three times a year) a complete survey listing all radio services which are active via satellite. Astra sets giving you access to a great number of radio stations, can be easily purchased nowadays. The prizes of these sets with a 60cm dish have dramatically decreased and installing such equipment is relatively simple. So....give it a try and ask advice at your local satellite shops. By the end of 1994/early 1995 the 4th Astra satellite- the Astra 1D- will become operational and September of this year will see the launch of the powerful Eutelsat IIF6 satellite. With these two new satellites a new batch of radio stations will enter the world of satellite radio.

JAM FM

We carried already a brief report about this new German satellite broadcaster. Some additional info: the station specializes in soul/dance music and is linking its terrestrial FM output via satellite on the Kopernikus satellite at 23.5 degrees east. JAM FM's presentation sounds good and is in German. Programme are interspersed with fast-moving jingles. If you are interested: tune your receiver to the 7.38/7.56 MHz audio subcarriers of Arte TV.

SATELLITE SURGERY

Fans of Eric Willsher's *Tesug Satellite Surgery* will be pleased to know the programme has returned to the satellite airwaves via the now renamed Country Music Radio station on Astra. The programme goes out on the old Saturday afternoon spot but has been extended in time. The programme provides any keen

satellite listener with a wealth of useful info. Listen out each Saturday on Sky Sports' 7.38 MHz audio subcarrier.

NEW UK STATIONS?

News of UK-based satellite radio stations has been a little quiet in the past two months. We can report that Capital Gold and Capital FM are continuing to show an interest in obtaining a transponder on Astra. Classic FM appears to be looking to link their new Dutch service by means of digitally delivered output and not via service on the Astra. Another source reports Sky Movies Plus' 7.38/7.56 MHz audio subcarriers are reserved for future use of Classic FM.

DAVE WINDSOR

Former Caroline man Dave 'the nutter' Windsor presents his 'Windsor's Wireless' (or 'Windsor's Weekend') radio show on satellite for BFBS listeners around the world. The show can be heard from 4-6 pm UK time (17.00- 19.00 CEST) every Sunday afternoon. This programme is an Anoraks delight as Dave looks back at the world of 'Big L' and other offshore stations from the 60s era. Also the 1970s offshore era is being paid attention to. Dave plays great (and also unknown) oldies. A must for every offshore enthusiast with a satellite receiver. BFBS is to be received via the Intelsat 601 at 27.5 degrees west on the SSVC TV 7.02 MHz audio transponder.

RADIOROPA GOES DX

For radio DXers/enthusiasts German satellite broadcaster Radioropa has an interesting programme called 'DX Report'. This show, presented in German, can be heard Sunday evenings at 22.00 CEST. The programme often contains loggings of Euro SW pirates and there's also a satellite newscorner. Listeners can call in and so it happens that German free radio fans mention logs of stations who are active on 48/41 metres on Sundays. Radioropa makes use of Pro 7's 7.74/7.92 MHz audio subcarriers.

N-JOY ON AIR

This April Germany's newest satellite broadcaster N-Joy took to the airwaves. April 4th at 16.44 CEST official programming was commenced. The station has been founded on the initiative of the

Norddeutsche Rundfunk. The station wants to offer an alternative for youngsters.

N-Joy's broadcasts can be heard in sparkling satellite stereo using the 7.74/7.92 MHz subcarriers of Premiere, formerly used by MDR Sputnik. In addition N-Joy can be heard via several AM and FM txs. N-Joy's programme offer can be found on Nord-Text on N3, page 408.

RTE RADIO 1

Irish RTE Radio 1 is since April 1st to be heard via MTV's 7.92 MHz subcarrier. It concerns MTV's trms on 11.538 GHz/V.

WORLD RADIO NETWORK

The WRN's satellite broadcasts via MTV's 11.538 GHz/V outlet are now to be heard on the 7.38 audio subcarrier. WRN offers facilities to a number of major SW broadcaster willing to have their programmes relayed via satellite. WRN is a great success since all available air time has been leased. One of WRN's major clients is American National Public Radio, a non-commercial broadcaster aiming its programming at the 9 million Americans living in Europe.

CHANNEL RADIO

Eurotunnel, operators of the Dover to Calais Channel Tunnel, were awarded a license to operate a cross-channel information radio service by the Radio Authority. A series of low-powered FM transmitters, all operating on the same frequency, will broadcast on motorways and other major routes to the Channel Tunnel and nearby ports. Channel Travel Radio will provide a primarily speech-based service, the contents of which will vary from day to day and season to season. The service will operate under an 8 year 'restricted service license'.

WRTH SATELLITE GUIDE

Under the auspices of the WRTH, a new book, directly aimed at satellite enthusiasts, has been published. The WRTH Satellite Guide contains a complete survey of transponder use, footprints and listings of all satellites and radio and TV stations. This book has been published as a supplement to the WRTH 1994 (see FRS Newscorner).